



Latest news



Partenalia meets with CoR President Vasco Alves Cordeiro

Partenalia members met with CoR President Vasco Alves Cordeiro on October 11th to discuss the network's recent joining of the new Cohesion Alliance (2.0) which took place during the Conference on the fight against Rural Depopulation in Segovia on March 23rd.

Partenalia has indeed renewed its staunch support to the initiative emanating from the CoR following its backing of the previous Alliance. Beyond what is a key and inherent feature of the role of Local Intermediate Authorities ((NUTS III administration), the promotion of territorial cohesion, the recent evolutions of the international context have shed light on the undeniable necessity for a strong Cohesion Policy.

Vice-President Bartolomé Nofuentes, recently named special advisor to Eastern Europe for EU funds by the European Commission, conveyed key messages gathered amongst Partenalia members in order to voice the concerns and needs of European Local Intermediate Authorities and thanked President Alves Cordeiro for maintaining the long-standing cooperation between the two organisations they represent.

He insisted on the significance of paying very close attention to the terms used to refer to Local Intermediate Authorities - Provincia, Département, Judet, Kreis, Powiat, County Council - in texts emanating from EU institutions and bodies; especially opinions and

eligibility criteria of European calls for proposals.

Indeed, the term is sometimes “lost in translation” as it is translated either into “regions”, “local authorities” or even “cities”.

President Alves Cordeiro explained that he refers globally to the levels of government represented by the CoR as “subnational governments”. He agreed that what may appear as a minor semantics issue can actually bring about significant exclusion of the Local Intermediate level of government from key texts of the European Institutions, among which the CoR itself, and therefore not only deprive it of legitimate recognition and visibility but also barring it from direct access to certain call for proposals.

Following the meeting with President Alves Cordeiro, Partenalia and the CoR will continue to work hand in hand to ensure greater recognition of the crucial role of Local Intermediate Authorities within European subsidiarity, notably as efficient manager of EU funds which enable them to serve the actual needs of the citizens thanks to their profound awareness of the reality and challenges face by their constituents and the socio-economic fabric of their respective territories.

The more direct the access to EU funds related to Local Intermediate Authorities’ competences the more visible the results of the action of the EU will be visible by citizens at the local level.

Vice-President Nofuentes also presented the Valencia Declaration adopted on the occasion of the biannual Subsidiarity Conference held in Valencia last November. In the Declaration, the members already expressed their support to the new Cohesion Alliance but also to the Marseille Manifesto. In particular, the fifth point calling for the European Committee of the Regions to “be gradually upgraded beyond its current consultative function towards a binding role in a limited number of policy areas with a clear territorial dimension while avoiding additional complexity in the EU”.

Vice-President Nofuentes assured that Partenalia will strive to send the CoR relevant information based on the perspective of Local Intermediate Authorities on issues directly related to their competences for the CoR Presidency to have as many constructive insights from this level of government as possible.

Vice-President Nofuentes invited President Alves Cordeiro to participate in the Partenalia Conference which will take place in Timișoara, 2023 European Capital of culture and capital of the province of Timiș (member) on November 15th and will take a close look at the role of Local Intermediate Authorities as cultural catalysts, notably with the participation of Mrs. Tanya Hristova, Chair of the SEDEC Commission, to be confirmed.

Finally Partenalia members have expressed their interest in organising local events to showcase the importance of the Cohesion Policy in their respective territories, raise the awareness of citizens as to its concrete positive impact and therefore give visibility to the new Cohesion Alliance.

President Alves Cordeiro officially welcomed Partenalia into the Cohesion Alliance and thanked the delegation for their support.



Partenalia Workshop European Week of Regions and Cities
We’re staying rural areas: practices, policies and tools for thriving regions

Approximately 30% of Europe’s regions suffer from a rapidly shrinking labor force, a low share of higher education, and a steady exodus of young people. As acknowledged by the *European Commission Demographic Report on the Impacts of Demographic*

Change (2023), these **trends are more severe in rural areas** and contribute to **widening Europe's urban-rural divide** and territorial disparities.

Yet, many diverse initiatives are emerging to address demographic challenges in rural and semi-rural areas. This workshop will present **current local good practices, policies and tools to retain and attract talent** in rural areas. It will also explore how these can be used to formulate recommendations to **improve living conditions and public services**, making staying or returning to these areas not only possible but appealing, avoiding one-size-fits-all solutions, and considering the diversity of assets found in European territories.

The representatives of the Partenalia political leadership, Juan Ramón Adsuara and Ángeles Pallarés presented initiatives from their respective provincial councils of Valencia and Castellón in Spain to address the lack of quality housing in rural areas which they consider one of the main issues preventing local youth from staying and outsiders from settling in these areas. Provincial governments can support smaller municipalities in providing facilities such as co-working spaces to their constituents as well as ensuring basic public services.

Marta Marczis, President of AEIDL, chaired the event, highlighting the mission of AEIDL to advocate better EU policies to foster, sustainable, innovative and local development. In so doing we partner with local stakeholders from all over Europe, and indeed networks such as Partenalia.

In the debate that ensued with the audience a number of key messages came out: EU and national policies are still out of sync with the needs of territories facing demographic decline, there is the need for rural proofing existing and new EU policies and funds. Lastly, it is necessary to plan and effectively guarantee the provision of basic services in all areas.



Conference:

Local Intermediate Authorities as Cultural Catalysts Timișoara November 15th

Partenalia held a Conference on the role of European Local Intermediate Authorities as Cultural Catalysts in Timișoara on November, 15th with the participation of external speakers from the European Parliament, Europa Nostra and AEIDL.

The full recording and agenda of the conference are available on our website: <https://partenalia.eu/conference-local-intermediate-authorities-as-cultural-catalysts-timisoara-november-15th>



Extremadura and Portugal join forces in the “RESOTEX” project. Rethinking the textile sector and sustainable fashion”, led by the Provincial Council of Cáceres (Diputación de Cáceres)

Vice President Esther Gutiérrez chaired the first meeting of those involved in a project, co-financed by the EU, that would help the transformation of textile companies and the use and research of local sustainable materials.

This project, as the vice president has pointed out, will promote entrepreneurship and economic diversification in cross-border territories by promoting the textile sector, taking into account sustainability and the circular economy, based on the common elements of this sector on both sides of La Raya. .

That is to say, an industrial transition of the textile sector is sought both in design and production or in waste management, “and all of this promoting innovative entrepreneurship and the connection to the territory as a key element.”

The project anticipates the European Directive (EU) 2018/851, which obliges Member States to begin the selective collection of textile waste before January 1st, 2025. From that date, regulations will be established with specific objectives for textile reuse and recycling, to which companies must adapt by having their designs and production models contain recycled raw materials, basing their production on eco-design and allowing recycling at the end of the useful life of textile products.

Thus, the project contemplates various general actions, such as carrying out a diagnosis of the sector, a research plan on sustainable materials available locally or launching Cross-Border Centers to support sustainable production in various locations.

source: <https://www.dip-caceres.es/actualidad/noticias/extremadura-y-portugal-se-unen-en-el-proyecto-resotex-repensando-el-sector-textil-y-la-moda-sostenible-liderado-por-diputacion-de-caceres/>



The Castellón Provincial Council celebrates the renewal of the agreement with the European Commission to host the Europe Direct Castelló office (Diputació de Castelló)

The Provincial Council of Castellón will host, for another year, the Official European Information Center, Europe Direct Castelló. This was communicated and celebrated by the vice president of the Castellón Provincial Council and deputy of the European Funds Office, María Ángeles Pallarés, who pointed out that "the renewal of this agreement, between the provincial institution and the European Commission, underlines the firm commitment of the Provincial Government team to the promotion of information and citizen participation in European affairs."

For this province "it is very important and a luxury to be able to have the Europe Direct Castelló office to bring the resources of the European Union to the citizens and companies of Castellón," commented the vice president.

The Europe Direct Castelló office is a unique window that acts as a key reference for obtaining accurate and up-to-date information about the European Union, "it plays a fundamental role in the dissemination of knowledge about European policies, programmes and opportunities at the local level," she noted.

In this sense, the representative of the European Funds Office has stated that "it is in our hands to support all those town councils, students and other citizens interested in European projects." Therefore, she highlighted that "from the Europe Direct Center we are very happy to start this work plan that includes communication and information projects aimed at the public and business sectors, the educational community, youth, civil society and anyone who is interested." "in building Europe from the local."

From the Europe Direct Center of the Castelló Provincial Council, María Ángeles Pallarés added "we are committed to developing all actions to facilitate participation in the 2024 European Elections." And, without a doubt, one of the elements that highlights the importance of the European Union and its direct influence on the lives of citizens are the European elections. A "crucial" event for the formation of policy at the European level and for the election of representatives who will advocate for the interests of citizens in the European Parliament.

Thus, the vice president has announced that "Europe Direct will be present in the 135 municipalities of the province, in educational centers, with innovative tools created specifically for this purpose." The objective, as she has highlighted, is none other than "to promote civic awareness and the active participation of citizens in European affairs", providing the community of Castellón with a valuable opportunity to understand and contribute to the democratic process at the European level.

source: <https://www.dipc.as/es/actualidad/la-diputaci-n-de-castell-n-celebra-la-renovaci-n-del-convenio-con-la-comisi-n-europea-para-contar-con-la-oficina-europe-direct-castell>



The agreement with the University of Siena for the opening of the Europa Direct Centre was signed at Palazzo Ducale (Provincia di Lucca)

There will be two 'Punto Europa', one in Lucca and one in Viareggio, created thanks to the collaboration between the Province of Lucca and the University of Siena.

A collaboration sanctioned by the signing of the agreement which took place on Wednesday January, 24th at Palazzo Ducale, which aims at carrying out joint initiatives and activities on the issues of European citizenship and was presented by the President of the Province, Luca Menesini, by the Rector of Sienese University, Roberto Di Pietra. Also taking part in the meeting with the press were Massimo Pronio, Head of Communications at the European Commission Representation in Rome, and Alberto D'Alessandro, from Team Europe Direct.

The 'Europe Point' aims to help bring the European Union closer to citizens and facilitate their participation in debates on the future of the EU, answering questions about Europe's policies, programs and priorities.

In this way, in fact, we intend to promote access to information on the EU, promoting and stimulating the perception of the European dimension as an added value for the economic and social development of one's territory and daily life.

«To meet the needs of the citizens - comments the president Luca Menesini -, we decided to open two offices, one will be located inside the Palazzo Ducale and will cover the Piana and the Mediavalle and Garfagnana, while the second, available to the Versilia, will be located in what was the APT headquarters in Viareggio. The Province of Lucca has always promoted awareness of the opportunities that come from Europe and has done so by always trying to give maximum support in identifying the resources allocated to local development and planning. Already in 2002, the administration equipped itself with a specific office, which, over time, also as a reflection of the reform of the Provinces, became a Wide Area Europe Service, to support the local authorities of the territory and, in this sense, strengthened the training and information activity on Europe and the results achieved through planning".

«The University of Siena - states the Rector Roberto Di Pietra - is pleased to provide technical and scientific support to the Province of Lucca, through its Europe Direct Center's over ten-year experience to contribute to dissemination in a wider area of Tuscany knowledge of issues related to European citizenship. To achieve the objectives of the Agreement, courses, seminars and other events which will involve teachers and technical-administrative staff of the University of Siena and the Province of Lucca, as well as other experts on European integration belonging to institutions, agencies and other bodies of the European Union. The Agreement will be valid until December, 31st, 2025."

source: <https://www.provincia.lucca.it/novita/comunicato-stampa/europa-firmata-palazzo-ducale-la-convenzione-con-luniversita-di-siena>



Cultural event of a generation, the exhibition "Brâncuși: Romanian sources and universal perspectives" closed after being visited by over 130,000 people (Consiliul județean Timiș)

January, 28th marked the closing of the memorable exhibition "Brâncuși: Romanian sources and universal perspectives", an exceptional cultural event that attracted over 130,000 visitors.

Also today, the Governor of the National Bank of Romania, Mugur Isărescu, launched the silver coin dedicated to Constantin Brâncuși, issued in a run of 5,000 copies. The coin has the portrait of the great artist on the front, and the building of the National Art Museum in Timișoara on the reverse, which can be purchased through the BNR branches in Bucharest, Timișoara, Iași, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova and Constanța, at the price of 547.40 lei, starting from Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

The exhibition received extensive national media coverage, with over 1,000 appearances on major television, radio, print and online media, and was reviewed in over 70 articles in international publications, including prestigious dailies such as The New York Times, Financial Times, Le Monde, Le Figaro or Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, being praised in the pages of important art magazines such as The Art Newspaper, Artribune, Il Giornale dell'Arte, Artension or Le Journal des Arts.

" We are closing the Brâncuși chapter, but we are committed to furthering the understanding and continued appreciation of art. A central element of the Timișoara 2023 Program – European Capital of Culture, the Brâncuși exhibition is the starting point for Timișoara, Capital of Visual Arts. During this time, we have demonstrated that we are capable of hosting and organising large-scale cultural events, that we are open to diversity and that we have the necessary resources to build a vibrant cultural community. I thank all those who made possible the implementation of the exhibition-phenomenon and, of course, the tens of thousands of visitors, because they were part of this unique journey ", said Alin Nica, President of the Timiș County Council.

source:<https://www.cjtimis.ro/comunicate-de-presa/eveniment-cultural-al-unei-generatii-expozitia-brancusi-surse-romanesti-si-perspective-universale-s-a-inchis-dupa-ce-a-fost-vizitata-de-peste-130-000-de-persoane/>



6th edition of the Carcassonne International Political Film Festival CinéCité (Département de l'Aude)

Supported by the Department of Aude since its creation, the international political film festival, renamed this year CitéCiné, has now made a name for itself in the world of the 7th art. As proof, the Dôme was full, for 5 days, from January 11th to 15th, for each session or conference scheduled as part of the 6th edition. Vincent Lindon, Ken Loach, Souffiane Guerrab... to name but a few, responded to the invitation of the organisers, in accordance to the philosophy of the festival "based on human and civic values" and which "highlights this cinema whose importance and relevance mark our individual and collective consciousness (...) This cinema which challenges us, questions us and shakes us up".

The winners of the 6th edition

Among the films, documentaries and short films in competition, 8 of them were distinguished. The prizes were presented by Stéphane Brizé, French director, in his capacity as president of the jury:

MGallery Grand Prize: "Green Border" by Agnieszka Holland (feature film, Poland, France, Belgium, Czech Republic).

Jury mention: "Explanation for everything" by Gabor Reiz (feature film, Hungary, Slovakia).

Prize for best short film: "Things unheard of" by Ramazan Kilic (Turkey).

SFCC Jury Prize: "Nuclear Nomads" by Kilian Armando Friedrich and Tizian Stromp Zargari (documentary, Germany). Photo credit: Jacob Kohl HFF.

Audience Award for best fiction feature film: "Amal" by Jawad Rhalib (Belgium, France).

Audience Award for best feature-length documentary: "Baghdad on fire", by Karrar Al-Azzawi (Norway, Iraq).

Audience Award for best short film: "Things unheard of" by Ramazan Kilic (Turkey).

Collège student prize: "Fixers" by Charles Villa.

source: <https://www.aude.fr/actualites/de-belles-affiches-primees-par-citecine>

Upcoming events

18-19/03/2024

10th European Summit of Regions and Cities - Mons 2024



[Partenalia will again participate in the European Summit of Regions and Cities \(9th edition in Marseille in 2022\) which will be held in the Walloon city of Mons on March, 18-19th \(10th edition\).](#)

The application of the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI - vice-presidency held by Partenalia) has been selected to be part of the 80 stands exhibited at the summit.

Members of the CEPLI technical working group and political representatives of the various CEPLI members will exchange with participants on the crucial role of Local Intermediate Authorities within the European administrative landscape.

CEPLI members will also have the opportunity to showcase various gastronomical products from some of the territories represented within the network.

"Thousands of mayors, councillors, regional ministers and top European and global decisionmakers will gather in Mons, in the Walloon Region of Belgium, in the heart of Europe, to debate the challenges and solutions for the future of Europe and beyond.

Organised by the European Committee of the Regions together with Walloon Region and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities will bring a new perspective on topics at the heart of people's concerns, such as democracy, sustainable development, the future of the European Union and its enlargement, the need to ensure social, economic and territorial cohesion, and dealing with the consequences of the war against Ukraine.

Global challenges will be addressed by bringing together different perspectives from across the world. The European Committee of the Regions is particularly proud that this occasion coincides with its 30th anniversary, and invites you to join the celebrations."

Source: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/summits/2024/Pages/homepage.aspx>

[Register now](#)



With the publication of the 8th Cohesion Report and the setting up of a Group of High-level experts on Cohesion Policy, the debate on the future of the Cohesion Policy has begun.

A key feature of the Cohesion Policy is that it is programmed and implemented primarily at the subnational level, and targets the regional, **intermediate** and local levels, with regions, **provinces** and cities being the main beneficiaries.

In line with the "do no harm to cohesion" principle, the Commission should reassess the governance of future centrally-managed programmes to ensure that their impact is more in line with the needs of territories; accounting for their diversity and ensuring better access to these programmes for Local and Regional Authorities.

In this context, the European Confederation of Local Intermediate Authorities (CEPLI) will organise its annual Political Conference on April, 23rd in Lucca, Italy.

The Province of Lucca, the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) and the European Committee of Regions (CoR) will be partners of this high-level event.

Please visit the CEPLI website for the updated agenda : <https://cepli.eu/>

Contact for practical details and more information: politichecomunitarie@provincia.lucca.it - coordination@partenalia.eu

[Register now](#)

[Download event calendar](#)

Highlighted Calls for Proposals

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Call

[Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods \(HORIZON-CL5-2024-D6-01\)](#)

Optimising multimodal network and traffic management, harnessing data from infrastructures, mobility of passengers and freight transport

HORIZON-CL5-2024-D6-01-06

[Access the call](#)

Scope

Optimised multimodal network and traffic management is essential for an efficient transport network and seamless door-to-door mobility of passengers and freight.

Such advanced capabilities need to be supported by harnessing data from physical and digital infrastructures, as well as from the mobility of passengers and freight, involving different types of vehicles, rolling stock, aircraft and vessels (including zero-emission, connected and automated), technologies and the use of innovative services.

At the same time, novel forms of mobility (e.g. shared, micro-mobility or even hyperloop) and new services (e.g. Mobility as a Service) present new challenges, but also great opportunities for enhanced management and optimisation of the transport network.

This includes advances to fully utilise dynamic and interoperable data exchange from multiple actors and transport modes, for well-tested and validated systems and operations, with appropriate governance arrangements in place.

Deadline model: single-stage - Planned opening date 07 May 2024 - Deadline date 05 September 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

Programme
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Call
[Call for proposals to promote gender equality \(CERV-2024-GE\)](#)

[Access the call](#)

Scope:

The objective of the Call is to support, advance and implement comprehensive policies to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, equal pay between women and men, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming.

More specifically, the call focusses on the following two priorities:

- Tackling the root causes of the gender care gap by promoting a gender-transformative approach and challenging gender stereotypes** with the aim to support promotion of family-friendly practices in companies encouraging the take up of the new rights under the Work-life Balance Directive by both women and men; prevention/protection against any form of unfavourable treatment and discrimination of women during and after pregnancy as well as of women and men who took family leave and flexible work arrangements; raising awareness of the value of care work by reflecting on the appreciation of skills needed for care work; and challenging gender stereotypes that perpetuate the traditional division of labour.
- Supporting the implementation of the provisions of the Pay Transparency Directive** with the aim to foster Member States authorities responsible for implementation of the provision of the Pay Transparency Directive (possibly in cooperation with other public entities, private organisations or international organisations) in developing national guidance and/or tools for gender-sensitive job evaluation and classification systems and in raising awareness of this guidance and/or tools among employers and workers representatives in their respective countries.

Deadline model: single-stage - Opening date: 21 December 2023 - Deadline date: 09 April 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

Percentage of funding:

Are you interested in joining Partenalía?

We welcome any **local intermediate government within the European Union** (Diputaciones, General Councils, Provinces, etc.) willing to develop the **European territorial cooperation** in order to improve the **quality of life** of its citizens.



WHO ARE WE?

Plural and International Association which gathers exclusively Local Intermediate Governments within the **European Union**



WHY PARTENALIA?

To develop European Territorial cooperation addressed to:



www.partenalia.eu



Contact us for more information



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Our email address is:

coordination@partenalia.eu

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