



Local & Regional
Europe

Council of European Municipalities and Regions

A Europe for our municipalities and regions

Who we are today



- 150.000 European municipalities and regions
- 41 countries
- 57 associations
- European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)



Local & Regional
Europe

Managing the refugee crisis at the local and regional levels

Presentation structure

- **CONTEXT**
- **WHAT IS CEMR DOING?**
- **FUNDING MECHANISMS AT THE EU LEVEL**
- **FOLLOW-UP**

CONTEXT

- Since the first quarter of 2014 we have passed from 100.000 asylum applicants to more than 200.000
- Local governments are at the forefront of the crisis and need to deliver results and services
- Asylum is a national competence but local governments are the ones dealing with the challenge of integrating refugees every day



What is CEMR doing

- Assess funds at the EU level that could benefit local and regional government as well as the needs of local and regional government in hotspot areas (survey)
- Inform local government associations about existing mechanisms at the EU level
- Liaise with EU institutions to increase resources and mechanisms for local and regional government (emergency and mid/long term instruments)
- Help associations to better coordinate with the national and EU levels
- Establish a platform of best practice exchange on refugee management at the local level

EU Funding mechanisms

- **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and Internal Security Fund (ISF)** - (for EU member states):
 - Emergency assistance mechanism
 - National Programmes
- **European Social Fund (ESF) and Structural Funds** (for EU member states)
 - The Commission is assessing available resources under other Programmes for integration-related issues
- **European Neighborhood Policy** (European Neighborhood Instrument) and **Pre-Accession Instrument**
 - The Commission is increasing and relocating resources under these instruments to reinforce the **EU Regional Trust fund in response to the Syrian crisis**

Immediate Operational, budgetary and legal measures under the European Agenda on Migration

Operational:

- **Full roll-out of the Relocation Schemes and Migration Management Support Teams working in hotspot areas:** The Commission urges member states to **identify a network liaison officers for all relevant local and national government agencies**

Action for CEMR and associations: call member states to include associations of local and regional governments in such networks

Additional budgetary support for 2015:

- The Commission will **increase the emergency funding for the most affected member states:** This means that the emergency assistance mechanism under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) will have **100 million euros more until the end of 2015 (80 coming from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) emergency assistance mechanism and 20 of the Internal Security Fund (ISF)).**

Action for CEMR and associations: **Assess the situation and ask central governments to activate the emergency assistance mechanism** in case certain local authorities need support due to a high influx (and problems) of asylum seekers. Only member states can activate this mechanism, but local and regional authorities can manage resources if the mechanism is activated by the national government.



- The Commission will also increase the **European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)** this year by **300 million** and **re-orientate the funds coming from the Pre-Accession Instrument** (200 million) in order to have more resources for the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis to help third countries hosting Syrian refugees. So, **500million in total***. The EC will also **mobilise resources for Turkey (1billion between 2015-16)** and **17million for Serbia and FYROM**.

Additional budgetary allocations for 2016 (to be presented to the EP and the Council soon):

- **600 million more for the emergency assistance mechanism** under AMIF and the ISF (only member states can activate them!)

Action for CEMR and associations:

Call central governments to **start assessing with local and regional authorities and their associations, potential “hotspot” areas in 2016** in order to be prepared in advance in case the activation of this mechanism is needed in any given area at the local or regional levels.

Finally, the EC calls on member states to:

- **Make immediate use of the pre-financing resources (over €300 million) now being transferred to Member States to implement national programmes under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund-Borders.**
- **Examine the use of their current Structural Funds programmes in terms of supporting migration-related measures, with a view to proposing changes to the Commission.**
- **Match the EU budget contribution to the *EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad Fund)*, to support Syrian refugees (in any country outside the EU) to reach at least €1 billion in total. *This will complete the 500 million mobilized by the EU itself through the ENI and the Pre-Accession Mechanism***

Follow Up

- Finalisation of the Survey through a potential project funded by the EU in order to elaborate a guide of good practice
- Participation of CEMR in structures at the EU level such as the European Migration Forum or the European Migration Network
- Advocacy at the EU and national levels for a better inclusion of national associations in the monitoring process of National Programmes under the AMIF
- Expert Group meeting of CEMR in cooperation with DG Home on existing funding mechanisms at the EU level for local and regional government
- Inclusion of national associations in the EMN National Contact Points



Local & Regional
Europe

Carlos Mascarell Vilar

Carlos.mascarellvilar@ccre-cemr.org