

2018 CEMR CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY, EQUALITY & INCLUSION CALL FOR PARTICIPATION/PROPOSALS

- ✓ *Is your city, municipality or region currently developing or implementing policies or measures that address **diversity**, **gender equality** or **inclusion** at local level? Perhaps a project that focuses on all three?*
- ✓ *Would you like to share your experiences as a local/regional politician or staff member that would inspire others?*
- ✓ *Has your city or region signed the European Charter for Equality? Could others benefit from your insights on developing and implementing gender equality action plans?*
- ✓ *Do you have an idea for a workshop? A project to present?*

If you said yes to any of the above questions, we would like to hear from you!

Local and regional politicians and staff are invited to gather at the **Euskalduna** conference centre in Bilbao from **11 to 13 June 2018** for the **CEMR conference on diversity, equality and inclusion**—hosted by the City of Bilbao and the Basque Association of Municipalities (EUDEL).

The three conference themes—equality, diversity, inclusion—represent core European values and **areas of opportunity for local and regional action**. We aim to create a forum that brings together a wide range of politicians and those working in local and regional administrations where they can share experiences and develop ideas on the **transformation of the social landscape** in our communities generally, and with reference to our European Charter on Equality, we wish to pay special attention to equality of women and men in local life.

Several formats will be proposed for conference sessions: debates, workshops, world cafés and “speed-networking”.

This call aims to identify and gather **high-quality practices** for presentation during the conference. Of particular interest are contributions that relate to the conference themes and highlight **smart approaches** that can be duplicated in other municipalities/regions. For example, signatories of the European Charter for Equality could share their experiences of what does and doesn't work as regards implementation and monitoring of the Charter.

This invitation is addressed to local and regional politicians and practitioners: national associations of local and regional government (CEMR members), and national equality bodies working in partnership with local and regional governments.

SUBMISSIONS: Due 7 June 2017

Applications will be accepted in either **English** or **French**

The submission site for proposals is now open and available at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMSRgrlnuy77PAbr9Ut2zyJQtaDotMeyx5RGNFigaQRhDZcg/viewform?usp=sf_link

*Proposals will be considered based on the following criteria:

- *Relevance to conference themes;*
- *How well diversity is reflected in the presentation;*
- *Transferability of the practice (peer-learning value);*
- *Quality of the proposal.*

We invite you to circulate this call in your network and look forward to hearing from you!

For any questions regarding the call and the 2018 Bilbao conference, please contact **Jaimie Just**, CEMR Policy Officer – Gender Equality and Diversity (+32 2 500 05 49, Jaimie.Just@ccre-cemr.org).

The [Council of European Municipalities and Regions \(CEMR\)](#) is the oldest and broadest European association of local and regional governments. We are the only organisation that brings together the national associations of local and regional governments from 42 European countries and represents, through them, all levels of territories – local, intermediate and regional.

Since its creation in 1951, CEMR promotes the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded on local self-government, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and the participation of citizens.

In order to promote gender equality at the local and regional level, CEMR launched the [European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life](#) in 2006. The Charter is both a political document and a practical instrument that encourages local and regional governments to make a public commitment to equality and to implement the principles listed in the Charter.

To further support Charter signatories, CEMR launched the [Observatory of the European Charter for Equality](#) in March 2012. Its online platform showcases the best practices and examples of successful local gender equality policies and facilitates peer-learning amongst signatories.

Today, over 1,600 local and regional governments in 32 European countries have signed the Charter.