



## **CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER AND INTERREGIONAL CITY NETWORKS (CECICN) REPORT 2013 / ACTIVITIES 2014**

**Decision recommendation:** The Executive Board takes the report to knowledge.

### **1. Conference of European Cross-border and Interregional City Networks (CECICN)**

The CECICN was founded in 2010 and is an EU platform representing almost 37% of the European population and 600 cities. It gathers the following networks:

- Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (CESCI)
- Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC)
- Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)
- Cross-border City Twins Association (CBCTA)
- Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)
- Iberian Network of Crossborder Bodies (RIET)
- Mediterranean Cities (MedCities)
- Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)
- Union of Baltic Cities (UBC)

The main aim of CECICN is to boost the European integration process and put European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) at the core of EU policies for the 2014–2020 period and the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy.

The general objectives of CECICN are:

- Encouragement of a strategic framework of cooperation in cross-border and interregional city networks.
- Promotion of a space for discussion on cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation.
- Exemplification of the importance of its member organisations in the EU cohesion policies.
- Development of strategies that stimulate cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation at the EU level in general, and among the members territories in particular.
- Configuration of a permanent dialogue with the different EU institutions.

The UBC is one of the six founding networks of the CECICN and Per Bødker Andersen acts as President since 2012. The Political Board of CECICN has asked Per Bødker Andersen in spring 2014 unanimously to extend his presidency for a further two years. The chairman of the UBC Business & Tourism Commission, Wolfgang Schmidt is representing the UBC in CECICN. The UBC was in charge of drafting the CECICN strategy 2013-2014 and the statutes.

### **2. Added value for UBC member cities**

CECICN

- Secures the direct access of the UBC to high level EU institutions.
- Generates visibility for the UBC on the EU level.
- Reinforces the important role of the Baltic Sea Region in the EU.
- Offers an EU wide platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas.
- Facilitates the partner search for EU funding projects.
- Provides a sound and solid basis for the development of policy positions and proposals.

### **3. Report 2013**

#### **Meetings**

Meeting with INTERACT and the Committee of the Regions (January 2013, Brussels)  
Executive Bureau meeting (June 2013, Paris)



Executive Bureau meeting (October 2013, Brussels)

### **Enlargement of CECICN**

Central European service for cross-border initiatives (CESCI)

Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)

City Twins Association (CTA, observer status)

### **Event**

Committee of the Regions OPEN DAYS 2013 - Organization of a workshop "Territorial cooperation and single market: how to create tangible added value for citizens in cross-border territories and interregional networks". (October 2013, Brussels).

### **Positions papers and publications**

"The urban dimension of macro-regions" (Mai 2013)

Consultation of the CoR on the "Mid-term review of Europe 2020" (October 2013)

DG MARKT "Single market – topics in link with citizenship" (October 2013)

DG REGIO "Integrated territorial approaches and small project funds within the 2014-2020 programming period" (November 2013)

## **4. Activities 2014**

The work of the CECICN for the year 2014 is embedded in its strategy. It follows the main goal and general objectives of the Conference.

### **CECICN enlargement**

The involvement of further partners in the EU is required, as CECICN wants to reinforce its role as intermediary at European level in promoting smart cooperation in the upcoming years.

### **Committee of the Regions (CoR)**

A cooperation treaty with CoR is on the way. It is planned to organize a CECICN workshop during the Open Days.

### **Communication and marketing**

To further position CECICN at the European level a coherent communication and marketing strategy will be developed.

### **Documentation centre**

CECICN will set up a documentation centre to strengthen its visibility and reinforce cooperation between the member networks.

### **Financing of the Conference**

CECICN will work on a financing model for the activities define a donation and sponsoring policy.

### **European Institutions**

The regular exchange especially with DG REGIO, DG MARKT, European Parliament and the European Networking Programmes will continue.

### **Supplement: CECIN Strategy 2013-2014**

CECICN Statutes