



- I. **CEMR overview:** Information on the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and its work
- II. **European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life:** What is the Charter? Relevance for promoting women in local decision-making positions
- III. **Charter indicator toolkit:** A new tool for monitoring implementation of the Charter
- IV. **Current CEMR Equality priorities and objectives**

2

Council of European Municipalities and Regions - CEMR

- Oldest, broadest European association of local & regional government
- Brings together the national associations of local and regional authorities from **41 European countries** and represents, through them, **over 130,000 cities, towns and regions**
- European section of the world organisation **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**
- Our work is organised around **two main pillars**:
 - **Influencing** European policy and legislation in all areas having an impact on municipalities and regions;
 - **Providing a forum for debate** between local and regional authorities via their national representative associations (ex/ SALAR, SKGO, SYVICOL)

3

What is the Charter ?



- Elaborated by CEMR in collaboration with its member associations
- Financed by the European Commission
- Launched in **2006**
- Document that local and regional authorities are invited to sign to make a **public commitment for equality**
- More than **1,600 signatories in 33 countries** in Europe
- Translated into **28 languages**

4

What does it include?

The Charter consists of the following parts:

- **Part 1:** Presenting **basic rights and values** on equality of women and men
- **Part 2:** **Guidelines** on how to implement the Charter and its commitments
- **Part 3:** **30 articles** representing different **areas of competences** of local and regional authorities and examples on how to implement gender equality in each respective area.

5

Women in decision-making positions



Principle n° 3: The **balanced participation** of women and men in decision making is a **pre-requisite of a democratic society**.



Article 2 – Political Representation: Recognition of principle of balanced representation on all elected and public decision-making bodies.

"The Signatory commits itself to take all reasonable measures to encourage women to register to vote, to exercise their individual voting rights and to be a candidate for public office..."



Article 3 – Participation in Political and Civil Life: Recognition that women and men have the right to participate equally in the governance and public life of their region, municipality, and local community.

"The Signatory undertakes to promote the active participation in its political and civil life of women and men from all sections of the community..."

6

Charter indicator toolkit

- **76 indicators** linked to each of the **30 articles** of the European Charter for Equality
- Toolkit translated into **22 languages**

Type of indicators

- **Horizontal indicators:** covering cross-cutting issues that are relevant for the Charter in general
- **Core** and **Optional indicators:** indicators that measure the implementation of the Charter by article

3 categories of indicators:

- **Structural** (e.g. formal commitment) – action plan
- **Process** (e.g. actions implemented) – ex. trainings
- **Outcome** (e.g. share of women and men) – share of women/men elected

7

Relevant indicators

Example: Political Role (Article 2)

- Are there **quotas** to increase the number of underrepresented sex in appointed or elected positions in the local authority?
- Are there **specific actions to encourage women to participate** in local elections?
- What is the **current share** of women and men in elected positions in the local authority?
- What is the **current share** of women and men in appointed (political) positions in the local authority?

Example: Participation in political and civic life (Article 3)

- Is there a **formal commitment** to ensure gender balance in the composition of advisory bodies set up by the local authority?
- What is the **current share** of women and men in advisory bodies set up by the local authority?

Resources

- Observatory website: www.charter-equality.eu
- Step-by-step guide on how to elaborate an **Action plan**
- Examples of **good practices**
- '**Atlas of signatories**' – a search engine and tool for municipalities and regions to exchange experiences
- Gender equality **news and information**
- Toolkit of indicators and training material indicators.charter-equality.eu
- Contact information for National Coordinators



10

CEMR gender equality priorities for 2017-2018

- Political commitment
- Equal participation
- Social awareness and engagement
- Ending violence against women
- Equal access to and control of services and resources
- Strengthening women's participation in the labour market and economic empowerment
- Work-life balance
- Equality as a core European value
- Gender perspective in refugee and migration policy
- European funding for local action to promote equality

Thank you!



www.charter-equality.eu



@CEMR_Equality

#localequality



jaimie.just@cce-ccmr.org

11