

The Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (18 May - 21 November 2018) has set support to decentralisation as one of its key priorities. In this context, and in cooperation with the Centre of Expertise for local government reform, the Croatian Government will organise a Conference to discuss and promote legal frameworks, capacity-building tools and data collection in cross-border cooperation in Europe. The City of Dubrovnik, which is a border municipality itself, will be hosting this Conference.

The European Charter of Local Self-Government recognises that reinforcing local self-government across Council of Europe member States is an important contribution to the construction of a Europe based on the principles of democracy and decentralisation of powers and functions. Effective decentralisation enables citizens to engage in democracy at local level and local authorities to exercise their powers efficiently. In border areas, cooperation by local authorities on both sides of a common frontier helps overcome difficulties due to borders and promote dialogue and cooperation.

International Conference

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE: DECENTRALISATION, LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, AND PRACTICE

Dubrovnik
Hotel VALAMAR LACROMA
25 May 2018



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE: DECENTRALISATION, LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, AND PRACTICE

Hotel VALAMAR LACROMA DUBROVNIK, Croatia

25 May 2018

Programme

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- 24 May
20.00 Arrivals
Welcome cocktail hosted by the Mayor of Dubrovnik, hotel Valamar Lacroma
- 25 May
9.00 Registration, coffee
- 9.30 - 10.00 **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**
- Chair of the Conference: Dr Mladen Nakić, *Assistant Minister of Public Administration*
Mr Mato Franković, *Mayor of Dubrovnik*
Mr Amir Muharemi, *Assistant Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Croatia*
Ms Claudia Luciani, *Director of Democratic Governance and Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe (CoE)*
Mr Peter Andre, *Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), CoE*
Mr Lovro Kušević, *Minister of Public Administration, Croatia*
- 10.30 - 12.15 **PANEL 1 Cross-Border Cooperation in the Context of Decentralisation: the added value of Council of Europe legal instruments.**

Introduction

Mr Alfonso Zardi, *Council of Europe Expert*

Panelists

Mr Nikola Dobroslavić, *Member of the European Committee of the Region, Prefect of Dubrovnik-Neretva county, President of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion*

Mr Leite Ramos, *MP, Portugal, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

Mr Andrej Čokert, *Ministry of Public Administration, Slovenia*

Ms Marta Panera Fernandez, *CDDG, Ministry of the Presidency and Territorial Administrations, Spain*

Mr Edwin Lefebre, *CDDG, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Flemish Region, Agency for Home Affairs, Belgium*

Ms Olena Kucherenko, *CDDG, Director of Regional Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Ukraine*

Debate

International Conference | CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE | 25 May 2018 | Dubrovnik, Croatia



12.30 Lunch hosted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

13.30 - 15.30 **PANEL 2 Cross-Border Cooperation in Practice: how to enhance capacity and strengthen leadership in the management of CBC initiatives**

Introduction

Ms Ramona Velea, *Institute of International Sociology (ISIG), Council of Europe Expert*

Panelists

Ms Branka Mracevic, *Head of Local Development and Investments, Herceg Novi, Montenegro, tbc*

Mr Ranko Biberdzic, *Leadership Academy Trainer, Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, tbc*

Mr Ervin Erős, *Director, Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives Balkans - CESCO*

Mr Martin Guillermo-Ramírez, *Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions - AEBR*

Mr Tamás Molnár, *Head of Unit for Cross-Border Cooperation at the Prime Minister's Office, Hungary*

Debate

15.30 - 16.00 *Coffee*

16.00 - 17.00 **PANEL 3 Exchanging Good Practice for Effective CBC: the EDEN database experience**

Introduction

Mr Daniele Del Bianco, *Institute of International Sociology (ISIG), Council of Europe Expert*

Panelists

Mr Alain De Muysen, *Vice-Secretary-General of the BENELUX Union*

Mr Jean Peyrony, *France, Director General, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT),*

Ms Monica Tanaka, *Denmark, Senior Interreg Expert, Interact Programme, European Commission*

Mr Vladimir Prebilic, *Mayor of Kocevje, Slovenia, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities*

Ms Caitriona Mullan, *Independent Cross Border Specialist - Ireland/Northern Ireland Border, Ireland*

Debate

17.00 - 17.30 **LESSONS FROM THE CONFERENCE: EXPERIENCES, IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS**

Ms Alina Tatarenko, *Head of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Council of Europe*
Summaries of debates by the moderators: Mr Zardi, Ms Velea, and Mr del Bianco

17.30 - 17.45 **CONCLUSIONS**

Dr Mladen Nakić, *Assistant Minister of Public Administration of Croatia*

18.00 **Farewell aperitif hosted by the Council of Europe**

Conference working languages: English and Croatian

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