THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

Congress reference texts

- Children's Rights
- Corruption
- E-Democracy
- Gender Equality
- Human Rights
- Local and Regional Governance
- Migration and Integration
- Radicalisation
- Regionalisation
- Roma and Travellers
- Youth

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Thematic Activities

Reference texts
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
Download the electronic version with links to the individual documents:

www.coe.int/congress-themes
Priorities of the Congress 2017-2020

I. CHILDREN’S RIGHTS
- Council of Europe Convention
- Council of Europe Strategy
- Congress pact to stop sexual violence against children
- Congress recommendations and resolutions

II. CORRUPTION AND PUBLIC ETHICS
- Congress texts
- Articles and speeches on corruption

III. E-DEMOCRACY AND E-GOVERNANCE
- Congress texts
- Debates
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IV. GENDER EQUALITY
- Congress texts on women’s rights and equality between men and women

V. HUMAN RIGHTS
- Congress texts
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VI. LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE
- Congress texts
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VII. MIGRANTS AND INTEGRATION POLICIES
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The Priorities of the Congress 2017-2020

"The Priorities of the Congress" is a publication presenting the main areas of work of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

I. CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Council of Europe Convention

- The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)

Council of Europe Strategy


Congress pact to stop sexual violence against children

- Seminar on the pact of towns and regions to stop sexual violence against children (13 June 2017, Belgrade, Serbia)
  - Conclusions

- Seminar on the pact of towns and regions to stop sexual violence against children (30 June 2015, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands)
  - Conclusions

- Towns and regions: a pact to stop sexual violence against children - A contribution of the Congress to the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE campaign
  - Pact to stop sexual violence against children
• The local and regional dimensions of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children
  – A Strategic Action Plan for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Congress texts

• Unaccompanied refugee children: the role and responsibilities of local and regional authorities
  – Resolution 428 (2018); Recommendation 414 (2018)

• Championing children’s rights in times of austerity: Local and regional authorities’ responsibilities
  – Resolution 392 (2015); Recommendation 382 (2015); Explanatory memorandum CG/2015(29)10

• Regional legislation and action to combat sexual exploitation and abuse of children
  – Resolution 350 (2012); Recommendation 332 (2012); Explanatory memorandum CPR(23)3

• Preventing violence against children
  – Resolution 289 (2009); Recommendation 272 (2009); Explanatory Memorandum CG(17)9

• Child in the city
  – Resolution 258 (2008); Recommendation 241 (2008); Explanatory Memorandum CG(15)9

• The social reintegration of children living and/or working on the streets
  – Resolution 271 (2008); Recommendation 253 (2008); Explanatory Memorandum CPL(15)6
• The fight against trafficking in human beings and their sexual exploitation: the role of cities and regions
  – Resolution 196 (2005); Recommendation 165 (2005);
    Explanatory Memorandum CG (12) 9 Part II

• Policies for deprived children/adolescents and families
  – Resolution 74 (1999); Recommendation 53 (1999)

• Education of migrant workers'children
  – Resolution 129 (1982)
II.  CORRUPTION AND PUBLIC ETHICS

Congress texts

- The protection of whistleblowers

- Fighting nepotism within local and regional authorities

- Financial compensation of local and regional elected representatives in the exercise of their office

- European Code of Conduct for all Persons Involved in Local and Regional Governance
  Resolution 433 (2018)

- Conflicts of interest at local and regional level
  Recommendation 423 (2018); Resolution 434 (2018)

- Transparency and open government
  Recommendation 424 (2018); Resolution 435 (2018)

- Making public procurement transparent at local and regional levels
  - Recommendation 405 (2017); Resolution 421 (2017); Explanatory memorandum CG33(2017)13

- Preventing corruption and promoting public ethics at local and regional levels
  - Report CG31(2016)06
• The misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes: the role of local and regional elected representatives and public officials
  – Report CG31(2016)07

• Survey on promoting transparency and ethical values and counteracting corruption at local and regional level (2012)
  – Document prepared by the secretariat of the Congress

• Tasks and duties, to be fulfilled by local and regional elected representatives, that may involve corruption risks and/or affect ethical behaviour (2010)
  – Background Paper CG/GT/CDR(19)2

• Rights and duties of local and regional elected representatives: the risks of corruption
  – Resolution 316 (2010), Explanatory memorandum CG(19)10

Articles and speeches on corruption

• The Congress adopts a roadmap against corruption at local and regional levels: Debates during the 31st Session of the Congress, 19-21 October 2016
  – Article

• Debates on ethics and transparency at local and regional level I-II (30th Session of the Congress, 22-24 March 2016)
  – Speeches by Elizabeth Dávid-Barrett, Marin Mrčela and Imrich Žigo
• Debate on Corruption corrodes democracy (27th session of the Congress, 14-16 October 2014)
  – Article, Conclusions

• Debate on the fight against corruption: pointers for action at local and regional levels (24th Session of the Congress, 19-21 March 2013)
  – Article
III. E-DEMOCRACY AND E-GOVERNANCE

Congress texts

- Open data for better public services
  Recommendation 398 (2017); Resolution 417 (2017); Explanatory memorandum CG32(2017)15

- E-media: game changer for local and regional politicians
  Resolution 394 (2015); Explanatory memorandum CG/2015(29)14

- E-democracy: opportunities and risks for local authorities
  Resolution 290 (2009); Recommendation 274 (2009); Explanatory memorandum CPL(17)2

- Digital divide and e-inclusion in the regions
  Resolution 282 (2009); Recommendation 263 (2009); Explanatory memorandum CPR(16)1

- E-tools: a response to the needs of local authorities
  Resolution 266 (2008); Recommendation 248 (2008); Explanatory memorandum CPL(15)2

- Electronic democracy and deliberative consultation on urban projects
  Resolution 267 (2008); Recommendation 249 (2008); Explanatory memorandum CPL(15)3

Debates

- Digital media and urban mobilization, 26 March 2014
  Speech by Jan Hanrath

- A Deepening democracy with e-media, 27 March 2014
  Summary of debate
• Smart Cities: new technologies serving democracy, 20 March 2013
  Session file

Other Council of Europe bodies

Committee of Ministers

• Internet Governance – Council of Europe Strategy 2016-2019
  CM(2016)10

• Internet freedom
  Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)5; Draft explanatory memorandum

• Internet of citizens
  Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)2

• The free, transboundary flow of information on the Internet
  Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)6

• A guide to human rights for Internet users
  Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)6

• The protection and promotion of the universality, integrity and openness of the Internet
  Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)8

• Electronic democracy (E-democracy)
  Recommendation CM/Rec (2009)1; Explanatory memorandum CM(2009)9

• Electronic governance (“E-governance”)
  Recommendation Rec(2004)15
Parliamentary Assembly

- Internet and politics: the impact of new information and communication technology on democracy
  Resolution 1970 (2014); Recommendation 2033 (2014)

Venice Commission

- The compatibility of remote voting and electronic voting with the standards of the Council of Europe
  Report CDL-AD(2004)012
  Conclusions
IV. GENDER EQUALITY

Congress texts on women’s rights and equality between men and women

- Women’s participation in public life at local and regional levels: good practices in member States and Congress action

- Gender budgeting
  - Resolution 405 (2016) - Explanatory memorandum CG31(2016)10

- Fighting the increasing poverty of women: the responsibility of local and regional authorities
  - Resolution 391 (2015); Recommendation 381(2015); Explanatory memorandum CG/2015(29)9

- Achieving sustainable gender equality in local and regional political life
  - Resolution 303 (2010); Recommendation 288 (2010); Explanatory memorandum CG(18)10

- Combating domestic violence against women
  - Resolution 279 (2009); Recommendation 260 (2009); Explanatory memorandum CG(16)7

- Gender mainstreaming at local and regional level: a strategy to promote equality between women and men in cities and regions
  - Resolution 176 (2004); Recommendation 148 (2004); Explanatory memorandum CG(11)10
V. HUMAN RIGHTS

Congress texts

Promoting human rights at local and regional level

- Best practices of implementation of human rights at local and regional level in member states of the Council of Europe and other countries: Resolution 427 (2018)

Compendium “Promoting human rights at local and regional level”, containing:

- Best practices of implementation of human rights at local and regional level in member states of the Council of Europe and other countries: Resolution 365 (2014), Explanatory memorandum CG(26)

- Developing indicators to raise awareness of human rights at local and regional level: Resolution 334 (2011)

- Intercultural cities: Resolution 280 (2009), Explanatory memorandum CPL(16)1

- Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society (Revised): Resolution 415 (2017), Text of the Revised Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society

Other texts

- Congress Human Rights Action Plan 2016-2017
  - Action plan - Human Rights at local and regional level
VI. LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Congress texts

- Coping with the debt burden: local authorities in financial difficulty
  - Recommendation 427 (2018); Resolution 438 (2018)

- The consultation of local authorities by higher levels of government
  - Resolution 437 (2017)

- A better future for Europe’s rural areas
  - Recommendation 406 (2017); Resolution 422 (2017); Resolution 422 (2017); Explanatory memorandum CG33(2017)16

- Autonomy and borders in an evolving Europe
  - Resolution 398(2016) and Recommendation 385 (2016); Explanatory memorandum CPR30(2016)02

- E-media: Game changer for local and regional politicians
  - Resolution 394 (2015); Explanatory memorandum CG/2015(29)14

- Conditions of office for elected representatives
  - Resolution 393 (2015); Recommendation 383 (2015); Explanatory memorandum CG/2015(29)15

- Trends in regionalisation in Council of Europe member States
  - Resolution 390(2015); Explanatory memorandum CPR/2015(29)4
- New forms of local governance
  - Resolution 389 (2015); Explanatory memorandum CPL/2015(29)4

- Adequate financial resources for local authorities
  - Resolution 372; Recommendation 362 (2014); Explanatory memorandum CPL(27)

- Strategy on the right of local authorities to be consulted by other levels of government
  - Resolution 368 (2014); Explanatory memorandum CG(26)9

- Recurring issues based on assessments resulting from Congress monitoring and election observation missions (reference period 2010-2016)
  - Recommendation 395 (2017); Resolution 412 (2017); Explanatory memorandum CG32(2017)19

- The functioning of the organs of local democracy in a context of linguistic diversity in the communes “with facilities” around Brussels in the Flemish region
  - Recommendation 409 (2017); Explanatory memorandum CPL33(2017)02

**Other texts**

- Regionalisation trends in European countries
  - Study, Group of independent Experts

- Reference framework for regional democracy
  - Council of Europe Reference Framework for Regional Democracy
VII. MIGRANTS AND INTEGRATION POLICIES

Conventions

- Convention on the participation of foreigners in public life at local level
  - CETS No.144

Declarations

- The reception of refugees in Europe
  - Declaration 4 (2015)

Congress texts

- Border regions facing the migration phenomenon
  - Resolution 432 (2018); Recommendation 422 (2018)

- Voting rights at local level as an element of successful long-term integration of migrants and IDPs in Europe’s municipalities and regions
  - Resolution 431 (2018); Recommendation 419 (2018)

- Unaccompanied refugee children: the role and responsibilities of local and regional authorities
  - Resolution 428 (2018); Recommendation 414 (2018)

- Regional and minority languages in Europe today
  - Resolution 424 (2017), Recommendation 410 (2017); Explanatory memorandum CPR33(2017)02
• From reception to integration: the role of local and regional authorities facing migration

• Organising intercultural and interreligious activities: a pedagogical toolkit for the use of the local authorities

• Promoting diversity through intercultural education and communication strategies

• Migrants’ access to regional labour markets

• Integration through self-employment: promoting migrant entrepreneurship in European municipalities

• Meeting the challenge of interfaith and intercultural tensions at local level

• Education for democratic citizenship: tools for cities
  – Resolution 332 (2011)

• Cultural Integration of Muslim Women in European Cities
  – Resolution 318 (2010), Explanatory memorandum CG(19)12
• Minority languages – an asset for regional development
  – Resolution 301 (2010), Recommendation 286 (2010), Explanatory memorandum CPR(18)3

• Equality and diversity in local authority employment and service provision
  – Resolution 281 (2009), Recommendation 262 (2009)

• Intercultural cities
  – Resolution 280 (2009), Recommendation 261 (2009)

• Social approach to the fight against racism at local and regional level

• Improving the integration of migrants through local housing policies
  – Resolution 270 (2008), Recommendation 252 (2008), Explanatory memorandum CPL(15)5

• The development of social cohesion indicators - The concerted local and regional approach

• Effective access to social rights for immigrants: the role of local and regional authorities
• Intercultural and inter-faith dialogue: initiatives and responsibilities of local authorities

• Cultural Identity in peripheral urban areas: the role of local and regional authorities
  – Resolution 205 (2005), Recommendation 177 (2005)

• Migration flows and social cohesion in South-East Europe: the role of local and regional authorities
  – Resolution 175 (2004), Recommendation 147 (2004),
    Explanatory memorandum CG (11) 9 Part II

• A pact for the integration and participation of people of immigrant origin in Europe’s towns, cities and regions
    Explanatory memorandum CPL (11) 4 Part II

• The participation of foreign residents in public life at local level – consultative bodies
    Explanatory memorandum CPL (9) 5 Part II

• Social cohesion in towns

Other texts

• Protection of migrants and asylum seekers: States’ main legal obligations under the Council of Europe Conventions
  – Background paper, Press release, Letter by Thorbjørn Jagland
• The European migrant crisis: a global issue, a territorial issue
  – Speech by Gundrun Mosler-Törnström at CALRE 2016 General Assembly
VIII. PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Council of Europe Action Plans

- The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism.
  Action plan 2015-2017
  - CM(2015)74

- Action plan on building inclusive societies (2016-2019)
  - CM(2016)25

Congress texts

- Organising intercultural and interreligious activities: a toolkit for the use of the local authorities
  - Resolution 397 (2016), Explanatory memorandum CG30(2016)04

- Guidelines for local and regional authorities on preventing radicalisation and manifestations of hate at grassroots level
  - Resolution 384 (2015), Explanatory memorandum CG/2015(29)5

- Combating radicalisation at grassroots level: the role of local and regional authorities

- Congress strategy to combat radicalisation at grass-roots level
  - CG/BUR/2015(27)22
• Promoting diversity through intercultural education and communication strategies
  – Resolution 375 (2014), Recommendation 365 (2014), Explanatory memorandum CPL(20)2

• Education for democratic citizenship: tools for cities
  – Resolution 332 (2011); Explanatory memorandum CPL(21)6

• Meeting the challenge of interfaith and intercultural tensions at local level

• Cultural integration of Muslim women in European cities
  – Resolution 318 (2010), Explanatory memorandum CG(19)12

• Intercultural cities
  – Resolution 280 (2009), Recommendation 261 (2009), Explanatory memorandum CPL(16)1

• The need for regional cultural identity
  – Resolution 268 (2008), Recommendation 250 (2008), Explanatory memorandum CPR(15)4

• Social approach to the fight against racism at local and regional level

  – European Urban Charter I; European Urban Charter II Manifesto for a new urbanity
• Intercultural and interreligious dialogue: an opportunity for local democracy
  – Recommendation 245 (2008), Explanatory memorandum CG(15)15

• Urban security in Europe
  – Recommendation 197 (2006), Explanatory memorandum CPL(13)5

• Intercultural and inter-faith dialogue: initiatives and responsibilities of local authorities
  – Resolution 202 (2005), Recommendation 170 (2005), Explanatory memorandum CPL (12) 4

• Cultural identity in peripheral urban areas: the role of local and regional authorities
  – Resolution 205 (2005), Recommendation 177 (2005)

• A pact for the integration and participation of people of immigrant origin in Europe’s towns, cities and regions

• Tackling terrorism – the role and responsibilities of local authorities

• The participation of foreign residents in public life at local level – consultative bodies
  – Resolution 141 (2002), Recommendation 115 (2002), Explanatory memorandum CPL (9) 5 Part II
• Manual on Local Authorities and Urban Crime Prevention
  – Resolution 116 (2001), Explanatory memorandum CPL (8) 2 Part II

• Crime and urban insecurity in Europe: the role of local authorities
  – Resolution 99 (2000), Explanatory memorandum CPL (7) 6 Part II

• Crime and urban insecurity in Europe
  – Resolution 57 (1997), Explanatory memorandum CPL (4) 5, Part II

Other texts

• Conference, Montchanin, France, 23-24 November 2006
  – Twelve principles of intercultural and interreligious dialogue for local authorities

• Conference “Towards an alliance of European cities against violent extremism”, Aarhus, Denmark, 18 November 2015
  – Aarhus declaration

• Summit of Mayors “Alliance of European cities against violent extremism”, Rotterdam, Netherlands, 9 November 2016
  – Rotterdam declaration
  – Webpage dedicated to the event
IX. REGIONALISATION

Conventions and Preparatory texts

- Helsinki Declaration on Regional Self-Government, 2002
- European regional/spatial planning Charter
  - Final Conclusions & Final Declaration of the Pan-European Conference (3-5 April 1997)
- European Charter for regional or minority languages (1998 - ETS. N°148)
- Reference framework for regional democracy (16-17 November 2009)
- Convention on transfrontier cooperation (1980 – ETS. N°106)
  - Additional Protocol (ETS N°159)
  - Protocol n°2 (ETS N°169)
  - Model inter-states Agreements
  - Protocol n°3 (ETS N°206)
  - Outline Agreements, Statutes and Contracts

Congress texts

- Autonomy and borders in an evolving Europe
  - Resolution 398(2016) and Recommendation 385 (2016),
    Explanatory memorandum CPR30(2016)02
- Trends in regionalisation in Council of Europe member States
  - Report CPR/2015(29)2
  - Resolution 390 (2015)
• Inter-regional cooperation in Europe
  – Resolution 373 (2014)

• Regions and territories with special status in Europe

• The governance of macro-regions in Europe

• Regions with legislative powers: towards multi-level governance

• Challenges for regionalisation in South-East Europe
  – Resolution 190 (2004) & Colloquy about Romania & Colloquy about Slovak Republic

• Draft of the European Charter of regional self-government

• International co-operation at regional level

• Evaluation of regionalisation in central Europe

• Current state of and prospects for regionalisation in Europe
  – Resolution 83 (1999)
• Regionalisation in Europe: evaluation and perspectives

• Current issues in the field of regional policy in the member states
  – Resolution 166 (1985)

• Co-operation between European frontier regions
  – Resolution 165 (1985) E (not online)

• Problems of regionalisation in Europe
  – Resolution 67 (1970)

• European regional planning

• The concept of “Regions”
  – Resolution 12 (1960)

• Challenges for regionalisation in South-East Europe

Other texts

• Regionalisation trends in European countries
  – Study, Group of independent Experts
• Reference framework for regional democracy & regionalisation
  – Council of Europe Reference Framework for Regional Democracy
  – Interview Herwig VAN STAA

• Debates in the Chamber of Regions
  – Regionalisation in Europe: a stalled process
  – Effects of the economic crisis on regionalisation
  – Regionalisation and devolution in Europe in a context of economic crisis

• Reinforcing Regionalism and Regionalisation in Europe
  – CALRE 2015 Plenary Assembly (Intervention by Clemens Lammerskitten)

• Achievement of the Chamber of Regions – a need for regionalization
  – Speech by Gudrun Mosler-Toernstroem (23 March 2016)

• Political developments at regional level
  – Information note, march 2016

• Launch of the “Black Sea Euroregion” (2008)
  – Varna Final Declaration & Samsun Final Declaration

• Launch of the Adriatic Euroregion (2006)
  – Joint Declaration & Protocol of establishment

• Conference on Regionalisation in Ukraine (3 April 2008)
  – Final Declaration & Conclusions
X. ROMA AND TRAVELLERS

Council of Europe Action plans

  - SG/Inf(2015)38

  - Roma Youth Action Plan
  - Guidelines for implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan

European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion

- Orientations stratégiques 2016-2019

- Sommet des maires sur les Roms : Bâtir la confiance mutuelle sur le terrain (Strasbourg, France, 22 septembre 2011)
  - Déclaration finale

Congress texts

- The situation of Roma and Travellers in the context of rising extremism, xenophobia and the refugee crisis in Europe
  - Resolution 403 (2016); Recommendation 388 (2016); Recommendation 388 (2016);
• Empowering Roma youth through participation: effective policy design at local and regional levels
  – Resolution 366 (2014); Recommendation 354 (2014); Explanatory memorandum 26(8)

• The situation of Roma in Europe: a challenge for local and regional authorities
  – Resolution 333 (2011); Recommendation 315 (2011); Explanatory memorandum CG(21)8

• Towards a tolerant Europe: the contribution of Roma
  – Resolution 44 (1997)

• Towards a Tolerant Europe: the contribution of Roma (Gypsies)

• Gypsies in Europe: the role and responsibility of local and regional authorities
  – Resolution 249 (1993)

• The role and responsibility of local and regional authorities in regard to the cultural and social problems of populations of nomadic origin
  – Resolution 125 (1981)
XI. YOUTH

Charter

- Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life (available in other languages)


Reports

- Social rights of young people: the role of local and regional authorities

- Bringing down barriers to youth participation: adopting a lingua franca for local and regional authorities and young people (2015)
  - Report CG32(2017)11

- “Forever young? The role of youth policies and youth work at local and regional levels in supporting young people’s transition to autonomy and working life” (2017)

Congress texts

- Voting at 16 – Consequences on youth participation at local and regional level
  - Resolution 387 (2015)

- Empowering Roma youth through participation: effective policy design at local and regional levels
• Youth and democracy: the changing face of youth political engagement

• Integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods
  – Resolution 319 (2010)

• Integration and participation of young people at local and regional level

• On young people and new information and communication technologies: a new opportunity for local democracy
The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 200,000 local and regional authorities.

Over the past two decades, the Congress developed and refined its approach and activities in the fields of human rights promotion, gender equality, the strengthening of local and regional democracy, the prevention of corruption and the promotion of public ethics. Recently, new challenges have surfaced to which the Congress reacted swiftly, elaborating coherent and credible policies for preventing radicalisation, for the management of migration and the improvement of integration policies.

This publication provides a compilation of the most relevant Congress and Council of Europe tools and texts. All these documents can be accessed from the electronic version of this compilation and can be downloaded via the link below or using the flash code.

www.coe.int/congress-themes