



The President

Brussels, 1 June 2012

MB/MO/ D (2012) 1289

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you of the launch of the preparatory action of the Erasmus for local and regional elected representatives. This new initiative of the European Commission, which was developed following the initiative of the European Parliament and in collaboration with the CoR, aims at increasing the knowledge of local and regional elected representatives on strategic planning within the Cohesion Policy, encouraging multilateral cooperation between local and regional institutions and promoting the exchange of best practices through ad hoc training and transnational learning activities.

The project will take place between autumn 2012 and spring 2013 and will consist of three obligatory steps: 1) participation in five Open Days 2012 seminars, 2) on-site visit to an EU city/region, 3) participation in two-day closing seminar in Brussels.

The initiative is open to all recently elected regional and local representatives from the EU Member States and Croatia with no or limited experience in cooperation at EU level and with a good command of at least one of the following six languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, German or Polish.

You can find complete information on the project and the application form on the EC website: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/tender/expression_en.cfm.

Please note that applications must be sent **by 20 June** to the following email address: regio-erasmus@ec.europa.eu.

I would like to strongly encourage all eligible elected representatives of your regions and cities who wish to increase their knowledge of the Cohesion Policy and participate in multilateral initiative at EU level to manifest their interest in this very first edition of the Erasmus initiative for local and regional elected representatives. Please do not hesitate to circulate this piece of information to those who might be interested in such an initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Mercedes Bresso