

CALRE 2014 WORK PROGRAMME

- ✚ **Strengthen CALRE's cooperation with European institutions and bodies, like the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and the European Parliament.** Increase the **visibility of the European regional facts**, showing its strengths to the public service and to citizens' participation. In this context, CALRE has to cooperate with the Committee of the Regions Commissions, over all with its Commissions in charge of the Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER), the Citizenship, Governance, Institutional & External Affairs (CIVEX) and the Economic and Social Policy (ECOS).
- ✚ **Follow up the implementation of EU law**, notably through the transposition of the Directives. The main goal of CALRE's developed work is the promotion of the regional parliaments in the European law making process. In particular, contributing to the subsidiarity principle in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions and with the European Commission within a political dialogue framework. Nevertheless, there is a vacuum in CALRE's works concerning the particular role of regional assemblies on the top-down approach of the EU law implementation process.

The transposition of the Directives in States with a complex structure often requires procedures and reception acts at two levels of government, central and regional; however, the participation of the sub-state entities in the process is mitigated by the fact that the state-level legislation, which incorporates the EU law, usually encompasses regional competences. Although, the EU law development and implementation does not affect the division of competences between central administration and regions, in practice, restricts sub-state entities' legislative development competencies in important areas like economic regulation, environmental law or external market services legislation.

The CALRE's works within a network – and probably the constitution of a working group in this field – would contribute to improve the comparative recognition of implementation techniques of EU law employed by different States and affecting the Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the regional transmission of EU Directives, to generate a benchmarking of good practices in this matter and to enhance the full participation of sub-national authorities in the EU legal development process.

- ✚ **Maintain the links created with the associations representing regional and local entities**, especially with the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Conference of European Regions with legislative power (REGLEG) and the Congress of local and regional authorities of the council of Europe. Joint actions will be studied to be

developed to solve the consequences of the economic and financial crisis which affects local entities.

- ✚ **Strengthen the monitoring of the subsidiarity principle** as guarantee for an efficient implementation of European legislative initiatives. The CALRE will continue to encourage its members to participate on the subsidiarity monitoring network, enabling a systematic exploitation of REGPEX by CALRE members, in the context of the Early Warning System, aiming to facilitate the analysis of legislative proposals by regional parliaments.
- ✚ **Smart Regulation and Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)**. CALRE members should support and follow the Commission proposals addressed to identify initiatives, in a transparent way, to simplify and reduce regulatory burdens. In this context, it will be necessary analyze the effect of an excess of regulation (goldplanting) by Member States on shared competences with sub-national entities. The aim is to avoid the political and economic cost, generated by regulatory efficacy, falling on regions with legislative competencies.
- ✚ Work with the **Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union** (FRA) in defense projects and rights' studies, over all connected within the legislative level and citizens' representation.

- ✚ Regarding the **United Nations**, collaborate with the Human Rights Council, assessing the own legislation's quality to strengthen fundamental rights and consolidate the culture of rights.
- ✚ Regarding the **Council of Europe**, cooperate with its democratization guidelines and best public practices, in special; collaborate with its Congress of local and regional authorities.
- ✚ Regarding **public deficits and the new approach on the regional cohesion policy**, the follow up of the fiscal compact effects to monitor public deficit on regional investment capacity and the goals on territorial and social cohesion. CALRE should support an open debate and exchange of information process within its members regarding the implementation of regional and cohesion policy, once the calendar of the new regulation implementation will be adopted. The main changes in the design and in the implementation of the future regional and cohesion policy are based on 6 dimensions: thematic concentration on the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, performance reserve, an integrated programming system through the Common Strategic Framework, result-oriented approach, reinforcement of the territorial cohesion and simplification of the implementation. Nevertheless, it remains a high level of uncertainty upon a regional implementation of the new approach.
- ✚ **Crisis and post- 2015 opportunity: the place of the legislative assemblies in the European decentralization cooperation (external dimension)**. The international agencies and the European institutions agreed on

appointing the essential role of the regional authorities in the decentralization process and decision making as a tool for sustainable development, to empower citizens and to fight against poverty. The economic crisis context underpins the demands for an international and European strategic framework regarding the development aid in a scenario post-Millennium Development Goals (MDG). From the CALRE we have to promote a reflection process about the place of the European regional partnership in the European cooperation processes with third countries. Also, we have to think about potential events regarding technical cooperation and transfer of knowledge (in the fields of decentralization and democratic strengthening) which could be developed. To be coordinated with the European Commission and other cooperation structures such as PLATAFORMA, are needed in this field.

 **Boost a strong collaboration within CALRE members.** The CALRE as a forum for debate and exchange of experiences promoting closer links between all CALRE partners and taking advantage of the tools provided by the new technologies through the CALRE web in order to create a link where we can share information. Boost ICT's use to organize videoconference meetings in order to promote increased participation and save costs in a moment where efficacy is criticized in political forums.

 **Elections to the European Parliament 2014.** CALRE shall contribute to involve citizens in this process in order to avoid high rates of abstention that make up European elections. Regional parliaments play, due to their proximity to citizens, an essential role in order to promote

higher rates of participation on European affairs. Dissemination activities should concern the European elections' participation but also it should disseminate other citizens' rights aiming to reduce democratic deficit of the Union, such as the possibility to citizens put forward European legislative initiatives (a new opportunity developed with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and which is already put in practice), the right of petition or the claims against the European ombudsman.

✚ **The parliament as a referent, the regional parliament as a need.** CARLE is composed by different regions but with parliaments which follow up the same aim and bear the challenge of high quality legislation and the control of the power at the service of the general interest. Current update of the regional chambers will allow meet the new citizens' exigencies about future actions with more expectations. Regional parliaments, through a strong collaboration, bet for an overall balance and makes them a qualified tools for democratic principle based on participation and pluralism.

✚ **Regaining credibility of the CALRE.** For this purpose, measures to increase participation are needed. In this context, the Plenary Assembly which will be celebrated in Santiago de Compostela will be a turning point, given Compostela special meaning in the creation of an European identity. Thus, Santiago is the first European culture's itinerary where ideas and values, basis of the occidental civility, were conceived.

In conclusion, an ambitious working program focused in more than one field of action. Our program offers a plural approach looking for synergies and alternative ways, in case other ways cannot be developed.