COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe contribution to strong and effective cross-border cooperation 1980-2015

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What the Council of Europe stands for?

▸ **Aim of the Council of Europe (1949): to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress**

▸ **Means: by discussing questions of common concern and by concluding agreements and common action in economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative matters**

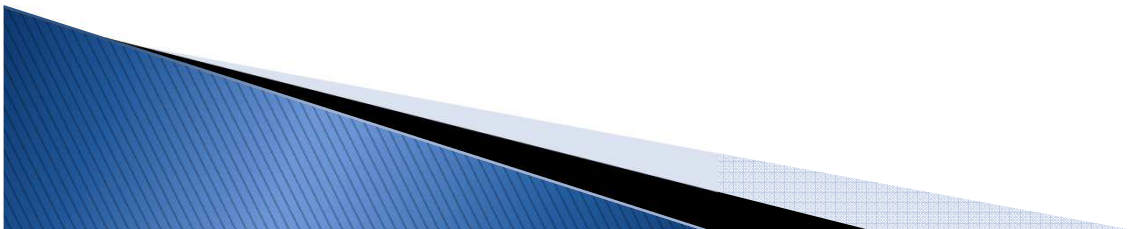▸ **Outputs: conventions, recommendations, reports, sharing of best practice, toolkits, communities of practice**

Role of local and regional authorities

- The Council of Europe consists of "a committee of representatives of governments and of a consultative assembly"

- Europe consists of states, regions, local authorities – and citizens

- The Council of Europe has given a stand and voice to local authorities in 1957

- The Standing Conference of Local Authorities of Europe which became the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (1994)

- The Charter of Local Self-Government (1985) and its Additional Protocol (2009)

- The Madrid Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation of Territorial Authorities or Communities (1980) and its three Protocols (1995, 1998, 2009)

Bringing territories and populations closer

▶ **Promoting cooperation between territorial authorities or communities across the borders – as if it were within the same country (Madrid Outline Convention) even if geographically distant (Protocol No 2)**

▶ **Facilitating the conclusion of agreements and the setting up of cooperation bodies (Additional Protocol) including fully-fledged legal entities (Protocol No 3)**

▶ **Understanding and removing obstacles to cross-border cooperation (Recommendation (2005) of the Committee of Ministers, conclusions of the Utrecht Conference 2009, Handbook 2013, EDEN Database 2015)**
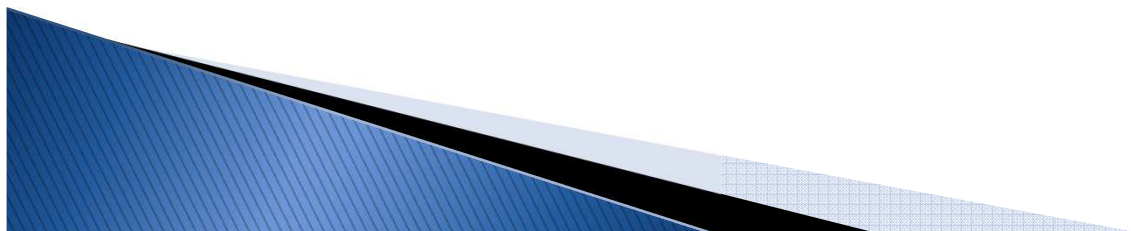
http://cbc.isig.it/about/

What does the Council of Europe offer?

- **EDEN database :**
  http://cbc.isig.it/search-the-database/

- **A series of toolkits:**
  http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/localdemocracy/WCD/Toolkits_en.asp

- **Guidelines for the implementation of Protocol No 3 to the Madrid Outline Convention:**
  http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/206-1.pdf

- **A platform for States and local and regional authorities to share experience and practice – legal advice, peer reviews, capacity building – through the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG)**

What can States and regions (Laender) do?

▶ **Communicate about experience – obstacles and solutions – through the EDEN database**

▶ **Push for the ratification of Protocol No 3 by your neighbours – France and Switzerland have ratified but Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Poland haven't.**

To conclude...

Visit us at **www.coe.int/local** and **http://cbc.isig.it/participate/**

Thank you for your attention!