

## Sandra Ceciariini

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Bilingual Italian/French  
Fluent English  
Proficient Spanish and German  
Learning Greek

- Highly experienced manager with proven expertise pertaining to the European Institutions and international cooperation
- Excellent diplomatic and political skills
- Multicultural background. Fluent in several languages. Knowledge of the field and on the ground
- Extremely dedicated to furthering development cooperation
- Extensive knowledge of issues relating to local and regional authorities

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) Secretariat General, 15 rue de Richelieu 75001 Paris**

*CEMR is an organisation made up of 57 national associations of local and regional authorities in 41 countries from all over Europe and is also the European Section of the world organisation United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG*

2009-2013

#### **Director of Platforma**

Platforma groups together local and regional authorities and their national, European and world organisations that are active in the area of development cooperation and conveys their message to the European Institutions. Platforma received support from the European Commission (DEVCO).

- Instrumental in the launching and setting up of Platforma
- Handled relations with the European Commission and other institutions
- Coordinated the positions of members
- Oversaw and ran Platforma's projects and activities
- Responsible for monitoring European policy on development aid and any follow-up Platforma initiatives that proved expedient within this context
- Managed the Secretariat of Platforma consisting of a team of four people

2008-2013

#### **Director of Citizenship and International Cooperation**

Managed CEMR's actions in the areas of citizenship and international cooperation and executed the organisation's political guidelines in this regard, in close collaboration with the Secretary General, and with a team of seven people.

Responsibilities included the management of:

- Platforma
- the European section's contributions to the work of UCLG
- CEMR's activities relating to citizenship and town twinning
- the execution and elaboration of CEMR's actions aimed at promoting women's participation in politics

Within this framework:

- Fostered good relations between CEMR and the European Institutions and other partner organisations

- Closely worked with the CEMR member national associations and assisted elected representatives in carrying out their duties
- Actively participated in and contributed to the political and statutory growth of the organisation (drafting of documents, preparing and participating in meetings, representing the organisation externally).

2005-2008

**Officer in charge of citizenship and international cooperation**

Set up and managed European projects and initiatives falling under these areas of activity and having an impact on CEMR's action, in particular:

- The European Charter for Equality of women and men in local life, currently translated into 22 languages and signed by nearly 1 400 European cities and regions
- The major conference on "Twinning for Tomorrow's World" (Rhodes, May 2007)
- The lobbying aimed at securing recognition by the European Institutions of the role of local and regional authorities in development cooperation

1999-2005

**Executive Officer**

- Was responsible for the organisation of the Network of twinning coordinators from CEMR's national associations and its partnership with the European Commission
- Served as Managing officer of the network of European women elected representatives of local and regional authorities; implemented the European project "The Town for Equality", and coordinated the contribution of European women local elected representatives to the debates at Beijing + 5
- Set up a group of north-south cooperation (in 2003)

1992-1999

**Information Officer**

- Disseminated information and handled relations with the member national associations as well as with other partners
- Drafted memos and documents
- Managed the Secretariat of the Committee of women local and regional elected representatives

1990

**European Parliament**

Secretariat General in Luxembourg – Directorate of Studies

1985-1987

**Translator and interpreter**

(Italian, French, English)

**EDUCATION**

1991

Master's degree from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po) of Paris – International Section

1988

Bachelor's degree in Political Studies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po) of Paris

1987

Graduate of the Scuola Interpreti e Traduttori di Firenze (School for Interpreters and Translators of Florence) - French and English

1983

Maturità Magistrale (A levels literature)

Office skills: Microsoft Office Pack (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

**References available upon request**