Dynamics of Change in the Mediterranean

Supporting New Local Governance and Dynamics of Change

- Citizen participation and local governance
- Dynamics of Change in the Mediterranean
- Local democracy and the development agenda

The political effervescence and the wide range of social demands that are emerging throughout the Mediterranean region offer new and unique opportunities for dialogue and cooperation. A new chapter is being written in the history of the Mediterranean. It needs to be anchored in a wealth of past relations, leaving behind old orientalist reflexes to truly explore and debate on a common future.

New cooperation initiatives should meet the acute needs of local and regional authorities following the revolutions and reforms in the Arab world. These initiatives aim at different objectives: support to local democracy and to local administrations, prevention of conflicts, and increasing the participation of women and the youth in these processes. A key point in these interventions concerns more particularly, developing better relations between the government and the citizens, as well as increased active involvement of the citizens.

Key questions:

- A permanent dialogue between local and regional governments of all Mediterranean countries.
- Capacity building of local and regional authorities, particularly in Tunisia and Libya.
- Support for local governments in countries bordering conflict zones: the role of local governments in countries sharing borders with Syria in the promotion of dialogue and peace building.
- The role of local governments in support of local Palestinian authorities, looking forward to support the process for the construction of a Palestinian State and the promotion of dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian municipalities.
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- UCLG’s Peace Prize for peace building initiatives.

**Hashtag:** Rabat2013

**UCLG Mediterranean Committee**

**UCLG Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy**

**UCLG Near and Middle-East Working Group**

**Latest?**: No

**orden**: 1

**Ponentes:** Bertrand Gallet
  Ghassan Walid Shakaa
  Habib Ben Yahia
  Mohamed Boudra
  Nader Ghazal
  Neila Akrimi
  Peter Rehwinkel
  Rosario Crocetta

Organizers

**UCLG Mediterranean Committee**

**UCLG Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy**

**UCLG Near and Middle-East Working Group**
Speakers

- Bertrand Gallet
- Ghassan Walid Shakaa
- Habib Ben Yahia
- Mohamed Boudra
- Nader Ghazal
- Neila Akrimi
- Peter Rehwinkel
- Rosario Crocetta

Sessions: Dynamics of Change in the Mediterranean

Bertrand Gallet

General Director, United Cities France

Né à Lyon. Ecole normale supérieure de St Cloud.


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Palestine

**Ghassan Walid Shaka**

**Mayor of Nablus, Palestinian Authority, President of Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)**

Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) 1996.
Member of Legislative Council 1996.
Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of Gaza withdrawal file from 2005.
Official portfolio of international relations of the Palestine Liberation Organization.
Elected Mayor of Nablus October 2012 – present.
Chairman of Board of Directors, North Electricity Distribution Company 2013-present.
President of Association for Palestinian Local Authorities, 2013-present.

Tunisia

**Habib Ben Yahia**

**Secretary general of Arab Maghreb Union -AMU**

Graduated of International Relations from Columbia University, Habib Ben Yahia has been Tunisian Ambassador in Tokyo, Washington and Abou Dhabi and also Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1999 to 2004.

H.E Mr Habib BEN YAHIA is Secretary general of Arab Maghreb Union since 2006.

Morocco

**Mohamed Boudra**

**President of the Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate Region (Morocco) / President of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG**

Trained as a medical radiologist, Mohamed Boudra occupied different positions in hospitals for over
20 years, among others, as Head of the radiology department at the Al Hoceima Hospital in Morocco from 1995 to 2007.

Member of the Municipal Council of Al Hoceima since 1997, Mohamed Boudra acted as president of the council from 2003 to 2009. Since 2009, he is also President of the Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate Region in the north of Morocco.

Actively involved with local governments in Morocco and at international level, Mr Boudra was member of the Board of the National Association of Local Governments of Morocco, member of COPPEM (Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities), and is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) that he co-presided from 2010 to 2012.

In April 2013, Mr Boudra was elected as first president of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG that gathers local and regional elected officials from Mediterranean riparian countries.

Nader Ghazal

President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa / Mayor of Tripoli

Trained as engineer, Nader Ghazal is President of the Urban Community of Al Fayhaa and Mayor of Tripoli in Lebanon since 2010.

Actively involved with local governments in Lebanon and at international level, Mr Ghazal is member of the Lebanon Mayors Committee which aims to develop municipal action by discussing with the governmental and international authorities.

In April 2013, Mr Ghazal was elected as vice-president of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG that gathers local and regional elected officials from Mediterranean riparian countries.

Neila Akrimi

Former researcher, lecturer lawyer and Diplomat
Doctoral Degree in European Development law, extensive experience in the fields of public administration reform and project and contract management. Former researcher, lecturer lawyer and Diplomat, Neila Akrimi has occupied for several years a position of program director for Francophone Africa at VNG international the Hague, she has been recently appointed to the position of director general of VNGi-Centre for Innovative Local Governance in Tunis. Her knowledge of the MENA region and expertise in field of democratic transition, local governance and gender equity has been an asset to develop programs and contribute to the capacity development of several partners in the region.

**Peter Rehwinkel**

*Chair of the VNG Committee on European and International Affairs*

Peter Rehwinkel holds a Doctoral Degree in Constitutional Law and has been Member of Parliament and of the Senate for the Dutch Labour party. In 2004 he became Mayor of Naarden. In that capacity he was political representative of the reconstruction programme of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami. In 2009 he took on the position of Mayor of Groningen, the 7th city of the Netherlands. Since that moment, Mr. Rehwinkel chairs the VNG Committee on European and International Affairs. In 2013, he was part of the UCLG fact-finding mission that visited municipalities in the neighbouring countries of Syria. The UCLG Executive Bureau mandated Mr. Rehwinkel in June 2013 to assess the feasibility of setting up a UCLG centre for disaster preparedness and response.

**Rosario Crocetta**

*President of the Region of Sicilia*

Después de graduarse, trabajó para ENI en distintos países del mundo desempeñando labores técnicas específicas en el ámbito informático.


En mayo de 2002, por primera vez, ofrece su candidatura a alcalde de su ciudad para la alianza de centroizquierda. Al principio, es elegido el candidato de centroderecha con un margen de 197 votos,
pero en el 2003 se proclama alcalde con 307 más.

A lo largo de su campaña electoral y durante todo el mandato, se ha convertido en portavoz de la necesidad de combatir Cosa Nostra, autodefiniéndose como ‘alcalde antimafia’. Así mismo, se ha convertido en portavoz de los empresarios y comerciantes acosados por la mafia y obligados a pagar el dinero de protección, involucrándolos en el nacimiento de la primera asociación Antiracket de Gela. Hoy en día, la Asociación es una de las más activas a nivel nacional y cuenta con más de un centenar de empresarios y comerciantes que han denunciado la extorsión.

El 1 de octubre de 2008, se unió al Partido Demócrata.
En las elecciones europeas de 2009 fue candidato en la circunscripción Italia insular en la lista del Partido Demócrata y con 150.091 preferencias es elegido en el Parlamento Europeo. Dimite como alcalde de Gela después de dos años de la reconfirmación.
El 18 de abril de 2012 se convierte en el primer vicepresidente de la Comisión Especial Antimafia (Crim) de la Unión Europea.
El 28 de octubre de 2012, es elegido Presidente de la Región de Sicilia para el centro - izquierda.