



*The Secretary General*

Council of European Municipalities and Regions  
*European Section of United Cities and Local Governments*

**CIRCULAR LETTER No. 4**

To the Secretaries General and Directors of the national associations and associate members

Brussels, 17 March 2015

**Re: Contribution to a study from the Joint Research Centre (JRC - ISPRA) of the European Commission on the impact of decentralisation on economic activity**

Dear colleagues,

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission contacted us regarding a research project on fiscal decentralisation. For this research, the [JRC](#) prepared two questionnaires, one aimed at national association of municipalities, one aimed at municipalities across Europe.

The objective of the first questionnaire is to get a better picture of municipal revenues, their source (grants, local taxes, etc.) and to what extent municipalities can decide on their use. The questionnaire is kept short (**10 minutes**) and in some cases it only asks for approximations, as it tries to investigate perceived levels of fiscal decentralisation. It can therefore be enough if you answer according to your best knowledge. Please find hereafter the link to the questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8MDPYCM> (only available in English)

We would be grateful if you could respond to the questionnaire by 15 April 2015.

The second (again short) questionnaire relates to perceived levels of the fiscal autonomy on the municipal level. We kindly invite you to send this questionnaire to a random sample of 100 municipalities in your country. The questionnaire is available at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HLQ5KQT>, and will be soon translated in the following languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish (we will forward you the links as soon as we receive them). Please also find attached a template letter which you could use to send to the municipalities within your association.

Municipalities are invited to respond to the questionnaire by 28 April 2015.

All data collected by the two questionnaires will be made available and we will share the results with you.

Yours sincerely,

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