

## **MEMORANDUM ON MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION** **between local governments' association from New Democracies**

The Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (ZMOS), the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMO ČR), the Association of Polish Cities (ZMP), the Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖÖSZ), the Hungarian Association of Local Governments (MÖSZ), the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) and the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AMU) – hereafter referred to as “the Signatories” – as local governments’ associations from new democratic countries, striving to create and maintain principles of local democracy and good governance, drawing upon their experience with creating local governments at the dawn of democracy in their respective countries and keen on cooperating with other associations, have agreed on this Memorandum:

### **Art. 1**

1. The Signatories are establishing the Platform of Local Government Associations from New Democracies for Development Cooperation - hereafter referred to as “the Platform” - as a formal association supporting exchange of information between the Signatories and coordinating their activities in the area of development cooperation.

2. Aims of the Platform are:

- to coordinate activities and positions of the Signatories in contacts with international institutions, including the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions;
- to facilitate implementation of common projects;
- to identify needs of the Signatories’ member local governments, to compare policies in the Signatories’ countries and to promote transfer of transformation experience;
- to create a database of innovative policies in Signatories’ countries;
- to strengthen Signatories’ capacities and to improve provision of services to their members;

- to strengthen ties between the Signatories and their member local governments;
- to support closer cooperation between local governments' associations from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in order to strengthen pro-Euro-Atlantic orientation of their respective countries;
- to promote common educational programmes implemented by the Signatories.

3. The Platform will strive to strengthen bonds with other local governments' associations from New Democracies, including the Visegrad Group countries, the EU Eastern Partnership countries, the West Balkan countries and the Baltic States, but also with other local governments' association with similar interests.

## Art. 2

Thematic focus of the Platform are areas declared by the Signatories as areas of common interest, including:

- means of dialogue with central authorities, not limited to national governments and parliaments;
- promotion of local governments' interests – including influencing governmental proposals and legislative process or pushing through essential reforms;
- good governance – including transparency and anti-corruption measures and public procurement;
- provision of services – including public security, transportation, education and welfare;
- experience with transformation, fiscal decentralization and accession into the EU;
- financial mechanisms for cities and municipalities;
- cross-border cooperation;
- regional development, spatial planning, investments and tourism.

### **Art. 3**

1. Activities of the Platform are coordinated by the Platform Committee – hereafter referred to as “the Committee”.
2. Role of the Committee is to coordinate activities of the Signatories in the area of development cooperation, disseminate experience from members’ activities, issue recommendations and solve problems curbing cooperation between the Signatories.
3. Statutory representative of each of the Signatories is delegating one person, who will represent her or his association. In case of change of the representative, the respective Signatory is obliged to inform the other Signatories by standard means of the Committee communication.
4. Members of the Committee will be communicating by electronic means, including e-mails and Skype.

### **Art. 4**

1. The Signatories will inform their local bodies about their possibilities to be engaged in areas of bilateral, multilateral and development cooperation.
2. This memorandum does not violate competences of local governments stipulated by the law.

### **Art. 5**

1. The Signatories will support favourable conditions for bilateral, multilateral and development cooperation by means of mutual agreements and projects.
2. The Signatories are encouraged to inform each other about prepared activities in the areas stipulated by the Article 2, as long as the other Signatories meet the criteria set by the programme, within which the project will be submitted.

3. This Memorandum by no means restricts the Signatories in the matter of their future activities in areas stipulated by the Article 2.

4. The Signatories will strive to solve all legal, administrative or technical obstacles, which may disrupt establishment and implementation of bilateral, multilateral and development cooperation.

### **Art. 6**

1. This Memorandum does not affect any acts regulating cooperation of the Signatories and their countries, stipulated by international agreements.

2. This Memorandum is subject to ratification in accordance with procedures of the Signatories and will come into force on the day it is signed by the last Signatory.

3. This Memorandum is concluded for a period of 5 years as from its entry into force. Its validity will be automatically renewed, unless one of the Signatories declares his interest to leave in a written form at least six months before the next renewal. Withdrawal of a Signatory will be amended to the Memorandum in form of an annex, stipulating departure of a former Signatory and including an updated list of Signatories.

4. Membership in the Platform is open to all local governments' associations from New Democracies, including the Visegrad Group countries, the EU Eastern Partnership countries, the West Balkan countries and the Baltic States. An association can apply for membership in a form of a letter signed by a statutory representative addressed to any of the Signatories, which will inform without any delay other Signatories by means of its representative in the Committee. Unless any of the Signatories expresses its disapproval by means of its representative in the Committee within the time period of 30 days, the applicant becomes the Signatory in the day of signature of the Memorandum. Accession of a Signatory will be amended to the Memorandum in form of an annex, stipulating admittance of a new Signatory and including an updated list of Signatories.

5. The Memorandum can be amended by written annexes approved by all Signatories, with annexes numbered in Roman numerals in the form “Annex I., Annex II.” Approval of the Signatories is communicated by means of the Committee.

In Bratislava on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 in 10 original documents with equal validity.