

Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns (COMUS)



DECLARATION OF COMUS MAYORS

We, the mayors of the pilot towns of the **Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns (COMUS) project**, meeting in Tbilisi and Dusheti on 7-8 December 2016:

- i. Acknowledging heritage as a resource and an essential tool for the democratisation process in urban development;
- ii. Recognising the important role of community participation, synergetic and inclusive processes in planning, designing, implementing and managing heritage assets;
- iii. Considering the need to integrate heritage into strategic and development plans and policies at local level;

confirm our commitment to the following recommendations and follow-up actions introduced by the COMUS project, and adopt the following Declaration:

1. We welcome the COMUS project methodology to stimulate social and economic development by enhancing cultural heritage in historic towns;
2. We commit to providing political and financial support for the elaboration of priority actions in line with the Reference Plans, to further studying the methodology and introducing the necessary measures into our local policies, and to including in our strategic plans an integrated approach to heritage and urban planning;
3. We invite other towns to take this approach into consideration and to take steps towards increased inter-municipal cooperation, in order to address common challenges and to share resources;
4. We hereby announce our readiness to collaborate with the COMUS pilot towns and global partners to ensure effective implementation and cooperative action between all local stakeholders and government networks.

Signed in Dusheti on