



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

between

**the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities  
of the Council of Europe**

and

**the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of  
Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and  
Cities of the Republic of Srpska**

for the implementation of the project

**Innovating democratic participation at local level in  
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

under the

**Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina  
2022-2025**

**We, the signatories to this Memorandum, hereby:**

**Acknowledge** the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2002;

**Recognise** that national and regional associations of local authorities play a vital role in the advocacy for local self-government and the dialogue to promote open and inclusive government at local level, and are key partners of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Council of Europe (hereinafter: the Congress) for bringing democratic principles closer to citizens;

**Take into account** the steps taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen local self-government and advance decentralisation;

**Express our readiness and commitment to:**

**Improve** the quality of local democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and co-operate for enhanced citizen participation in decision making, by supporting local authorities in their efforts to strengthen local governance through innovative and human rights-based approaches, based on principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness;

**Co-operate** to further disseminate good practices in inclusive policymaking and co-creation between local authorities and citizens, in particular in the South-East Europe, through deepened partnership with the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) and with other relevant stakeholders.

**The signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding commit to:**

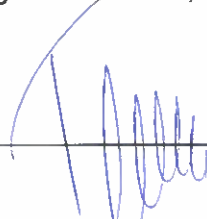
**The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

- **Acknowledge** the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Republic of Srpska (hereinafter: the Associations) as partners of the project "Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina", implemented by the Congress as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2025;
- **Promote** the inclusion of local authorities and the Associations as fully-fledged partners in the development of relevant strategies and actions plans in the country;
- **Support** the institutional and advocacy capacity of the Associations in the development and implementation of relevant strategies and plans as well as, and in the promotion of enhanced local governance, including new democratic approaches, open government and public ethics;
- **Provide** expert support and guidance to local authorities selected in co-operation with the Associations for fostering a proactive and transparent approach to local decision-making processes and for creating an inclusive environment to address citizens' needs.

**The Associations:**

- **Promote** and integrate European standards for local democracy in the strategic orientation of the Associations and services offered to their members, in particular Council of Europe and Congress recommendations related to open government, deliberative and participatory democracy, gender equality and human rights;
- **Contribute** to the implementation of the Council of Europe project “Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina” by providing advice on the developments and challenges for advancing local democracy and by encouraging peer-to-peer approach and knowledge-sharing, including with peer associations in other European countries;
- **Foster** the dialogue with and between local and central authorities and civil society organisations to promote and advocate for implementation of open government principles and to contribute to upholding Bosnia and Herzegovina’s national commitments in this regard;
- **Provide** support to local authorities, selected jointly with the Congress, in the development of their capacities and their introduction to policies and practices that promote open government, public ethics, as well as transparent, inclusive and participatory local policy making, thereby enhancing the quality of local democracy and the overall resilience of local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*Signed in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 19 September 2022.*



**Vesna TRAVLJANIN**

Director

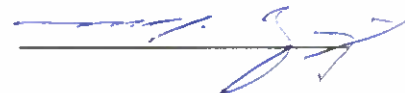
Association of Municipalities  
and Cities of the Federation  
of Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Aco PANTIĆ**

Secretary General

Association of Municipalities  
and Cities of the Republic  
of Srpska



**Rafael BENITEZ**

Director

Congress of Local and Regional  
Authorities of the Council of Europe