



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

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

and

the Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils

for the implementation of co-operation activities in Ukraine

under the

**Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine
“Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023–2026**

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded between the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter “the Congress”) and the all-Ukrainian association of local self-government bodies “Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils” (hereinafter “UAROR” for its acronym in Ukrainian) with the purpose of establishing a framework for co-operation and partnership between the above-mentioned partners to implement Congress co-operation activities under the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023–2026.

Rationale

The Congress is supporting Ukraine in local self-government reforms and in the achievement of local democracy standards through its statutory work, and since 2014 through co-operation activities. All Congress projects are based on longstanding co-operation and developed to address the needs voiced by Ukrainian local and regional authorities and their national associations, including the multiple challenges provoked by the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine.

The Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023-2026, approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 14 December 2022, was prepared in close consultation with the Ukrainian authorities. It sets a framework for co-operation with the required flexibility to address emerging needs and priorities of Ukraine in the current context of its European Union candidate status, the recovery process, and the volatile and high-risk environment.

We, the signatories to this Memorandum, hereby

Acknowledge the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No. 207) ratified by Ukraine in 1997 and in 2014, respectively;

Recognise that national associations of local and regional authorities play a vital role in advocating for local self-government and in the dialogue to strengthen local democracy, and are key partners of the Congress, in particular in bringing democratic principles closer to citizens;

Take account of the need for continued local self-government reform and further decentralisation, and acknowledge in this respect the resilience of local and regional authorities and their role in dealing with the consequences of the war against Ukraine;

Bear in mind at the same time the current adaptations of the legislative framework under the martial law, which should observe the general principles of necessity, proportionality, and temporariness.

Express readiness and commitment to:

Contribute to building resilient, inclusive, and accountable local and regional authorities that better respond to citizens’ needs and expectations, and thus increase their trust in public institutions;

Support Ukraine in its accession process to the European Union and reform efforts in this respect.

The signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding commit to:

The Congress

- **Acknowledge** the UAROR as an implementing partner of the Congress activities in Ukraine under the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023–2026;
- **Support** the UAROR in (a) enhancing its institutional capacities in line with the principles of local democracy and open government, (b) promoting and guaranteeing the right to equality and non-discrimination, and (c) developing policies that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, notably through the promotion of accountable and inclusive institutions at regional level;
- **Promote** the respect and protection of human rights standards and practices, including gender equality principles, by all relevant stakeholders of the Congress co-operation activities in Ukraine.

The UAROR

- **Promote and integrate** European standards for local democracy and human rights in the strategies, activities and services offered to its members, with due regard to Council of Europe and Congress recommendations related to the realisation of human rights at regional level;
- **Contribute** to the overall implementation of Congress activities, by following up closely and advising on the developments in local and regional democracy and reforms, and by encouraging peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences and knowledge;
- **Provide** support to its members in bolstering innovation in their policies and local initiatives, both directly and jointly with the Congress, thereby enhancing the overall resilience of local communities in Ukraine.


Signed in Strasbourg, France, on 12 September 2024, in two copies in English and Ukrainian languages, both texts being equally authentic.



Tetiana YEHOBOVA-LUTSENKO

President

All-Ukrainian association of local self-government bodies “Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils”



Mathieu MORI

Secretary General

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe