



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

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

and

the Association of Ukrainian Cities

for the implementation of the project  
**Strengthening democracy and building trust**  
at local level in Ukraine

under the  
**Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021**

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

**Acknowledge** the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority, ratified by Ukraine, in 1997 and in 2014 respectively;

**Recall** the Recommendation 348 (2013) on Local and Regional Democracy in Ukraine adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter Congress) and the roadmap for its implementation, signed between the Congress and the Ukrainian national authorities, in Kyiv on 20 May 2015;

**Recognise** that national associations of local and regional authorities play a vital role in the advocacy 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 into account** the on-going reform of local self-government in Ukraine and the steps made towards greater decentralisation.

**Express our readiness and commitment to:**

**Improve** the quality of local democracy in Ukraine by strengthening institutional frameworks and supporting local elected representatives in their efforts to promote ethical decision-making and more citizen-oriented, inclusive and transparent governance, in particular within the project “Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine” implemented by the Congress, as part of the Action Plan for Ukraine 2018 – 2021.

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

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- Acknowledge the Association of the Ukrainian Cities (hereinafter AUC) as the main implementing partner of the project ‘Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine’;
- Support the institutional and advocacy capacity of the AUC, including the development of new policies and strategies which take into consideration the needs of its members, and the recommendations adopted by the Congress;
- Support the AUC in improving and providing services to its members and in developing relevant tools for local authorities, including local elected representatives;
- Provide expert support and guidance to local authorities selected jointly with the AUC for the implementation of local initiatives which promote transparency and citizen participation, a gender perspective and human rights approach in local policies, and equal opportunities to participate in local political life and decision-making;
- Involve all national associations of local and regional authorities and relevant actors into project activities, so as to promote a constructive dialogue between all stakeholders engaged in improving local democracy and establishing a sustainable multilevel governance system.

## The Association of Ukrainian Cities

- Promote and integrate European standards for local democracy in the strategies, activities and services offered to the members of the Association, in particular Council of Europe and Congress recommendations related to a) ethics, transparency and open government; b) minorities, IDPs and Roma issues; and c) gender equality;
- Contribute in a timely and constructive manner to the drafting of decisions and policies concerning local authorities, representing the interests of its members in consultations between the national and local levels;
- Ensure a participatory approach to the development of the strategic orientation of the Association and integrate assessment results and recommendations in the design of new approaches;
- Strengthen its commitment to open government and promote equal opportunities principles, fostering equal representation of the executive and governing bodies members;
- Contribute to the overall project implementation, by following up closely and advising on the developments in local democracy and reforms, and by encouraging peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences and knowledge, including with peer all national associations in Ukraine and in other European countries;
- Provide support to local authorities selected jointly with the Congress in the introduction of policies and the implementation of practices and local initiatives that promote transparency and citizen participation, gender equality and a human rights approach, thereby enhancing the overall resilience of local communities in Ukraine.


*Signed in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 25 September 2018, in English and Ukrainian language, both texts being equally authentic.*



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**Vitali KLITSCHKO**

Chairman  
Association of Ukrainian Cities



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**Andreas KIEFER**

Secretary General  
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities  
of the Council of Europe