



ASSOCIATION
OF POLISH
CITIES



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

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

and

the Association of Polish Cities

and

the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova

and

the Association of Communes of Romania

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded between the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter referred to as "Congress"), the Association of Polish Cities (hereinafter referred to as "APC"), the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (hereinafter referred to as "CALM"), and the Association of Communes of Romania (hereinafter referred to as "ACoR") with the purpose of establishing a framework for co-operation and partnership between the above-mentioned partners to implement the Congress co-operation activities under the **Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe (2021-2025)**.

Rationale

The Congress is committed to the full realisation of human rights at local and regional levels, one of its thematic priorities, including for refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and internally displaced persons. Local and regional authorities, and their national associations, are key actors in migration management as they are at the forefront in the provision of services, including healthcare, education, and integration, striving to raise citizens' awareness to create cohesive and inclusive communities.

The Congress project "Strengthening resilience in local and regional authorities facing migration challenges", implemented with the support of Germany, contributes to building strong, inclusive, and sustainable local democracy in Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Romania; in particular with regard to migration challenges since February 2022. Its overall objective is to strengthen resilience in local and regional authorities so that they are able to provide sustainable and democratic solutions to citizens and migrants in the targeted countries.

APC, CALM and ACoR are key partners and will support the Congress in achieving the following objectives: (i) improve co-operation among local authorities, and multilevel governance in the area of migration, including through a transnational community of practice and (ii) develop skills and capacities of local authorities to better respond to migration challenges, in particular through participatory approaches.

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;

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 account of the need for continued support to local authorities in managing migration while promoting and upholding human rights for all local residents, in particular since February 2022 and the consequences of the war against Ukraine.

Express readiness and commitment to

Contribute to building resilient, inclusive, and accountable local authorities that better respond to local residents' needs and expectations, including those of migrants.

The Congress

- **Acknowledge** the APC, CALM and ACoR as key partners of the Congress activities under the project "Strengthening resilience in local and regional authorities facing migration challenges";
- **Support** the partner associations in improving and providing services to their members with regard to migration management through: a) strengthening dialogue and coordination between local and regional authorities, their national associations, and central authorities on migration-related issues; b) enhancing collaboration and peer-to-peer exchanges on inclusive policies and practices, adapted to the needs identified by local and regional authorities; c) establishing local alliances to promote and ensure the right to equality and non-discrimination;
- **Ensure** support to local authorities, both directly and through national associations, to foster human rights for all at local level;
- **Involve** all relevant actors into Congress activities in Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Romania, to promote the integration of human rights standards and practices, as well as gender equality principles, at local level;

The Association of Polish Cities,

The Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, and

The Association of Communes of Romania

- **Co-operate** in good faith in implementing the Congress project "Strengthening resilience in local and regional authorities facing migration challenges";
- **Promote** and integrate European standards for local democracy in the strategies, activities and services offered to the members of the Associations, in particular Council of Europe and Congress recommendations related to a) migrants and integration; b) human rights implementation at the local level; c) open, accountable and inclusive government; d) innovative and co-creative citizen participation methods; and e) gender equality;

- **Contribute** to the overall implementation of Congress activities, by following up closely and advising on the developments in migration management at local level, and by encouraging peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences and knowledge;
- **Provide** support to local authorities in bolstering innovation in their policies and local initiatives, both directly and jointly with the Congress, thereby enhancing the overall resilience of local communities facing migration challenges in Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Signed in Strasbourg, France, on 29 June 2023, in four copies in English.



Mathieu MORI

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