



**ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES**  
BY JOINT EFFORTS



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

between

**the Open Government Partnership**

and

**the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**

**of the Council of Europe**

and

**the Association of Ukrainian Cities**

## Background

**Open Government Partnership** (hereinafter referred to as “OGP”) is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. To progress further in this goal, OGP acknowledges the opportunities presented by engaging in open government on the local level. OGP has grown to include a network of 7676 local governments, 78 countries, and thousands of civil society partners committed to local, national, and global action on transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance.

**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe** (hereinafter referred to as “the Congress”) is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states and assessing the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. As the voice of Europe’s municipalities and regions, it works to foster consultation and political dialogue between national governments and local and regional authorities. It has 306 representatives and 306 substitutes, all appointed for five years, representing over 130,000 local and regional authorities. The Congress has reinforced co-operation and partnerships with member states and other institutions and European associations in order to consolidate local and regional democracy.

**Association of Ukrainian Cities** (hereinafter referred as “AUC”) is the most representative national association of local authorities of basic level in Ukraine advocating for local government rights and participating in the policy dialogue with state authorities at all levels on behalf of local authorities. Since its creation in 1992, the AUC has been actively engaged in strengthening local democracy, the legislative framework for local self-government and fiscal decentralisation. Today, the AUC unites approximately 986 representative bodies of local self-government, which represent more than 85% of the Ukrainian population lives.

### **We, the signatories to this memorandum,**

Namely OGP, the Congress and the AUC (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Parties”, and individually each as a “Party”):

**Sharing** a common commitment to the full realisation and renewal of local democracy based upon a mutual understanding that local authorities have the potential to co-create and implement policies that foster open, inclusive and sustainable solutions to challenges they face;

**Recognising** the strong capacities of local authorities to implement open government initiatives at local level, generate jointly with civil society organisations, tangible impact and greater visibility;

**Acknowledging** that through multilevel governance approaches and open government integration, local authorities can further the localisation of Sustainable Development Goals as highlighted by the UN Agenda 2030;

## **Express our readiness to:**

**Collaborate** in the development of new methodologies, approaches and tools in areas of mutual interest, and in the implementation of joint activities in Ukraine, with a view to pursuing the use of peer-to-peer learning and global-to-local advocacy for the adoption of open government principles;

**Strengthen** governance at the local level and increase local' voices in global agendas, particularly supporting Ukrainian communities in improving their resilience and reconstruction efforts;

**Co-ordinate** efforts through regular (twice a year) planning meetings (in person or via teleconference) with representatives of all Parties to determine activities and campaigns for collaboration;

## **Commit to achieving the following goals:**

**1. Ensure** rapid and stable reconstruction of Ukrainian communities and the restoration of the full functioning of local authorities to address humanitarian, social, economic and environmental challenges they face as a consequence of the war, to reconstruct democracy and rebuild resilience at local level, as well as to implement post-war recovery measures in Ukraine;

**2. Promote** solidarity with Ukrainian local authorities through closer dialogue and co-operation with their peers from Europe and EU Eastern Partnership countries, the Americas, Africa and the MENA region, and Asia-Pacific;

**3. Develop and implement** joint activities to support Ukrainian local authorities in ensuring transparency, inclusiveness and accountability by following the principles of open governance through provision of expertise and promotion of peer exchanges;

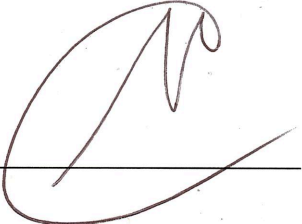
**4. Facilitate** sustainable and continuous dialogue between central and local authorities on design, implementation and evaluation of national commitments within Action Plans for the implementation of Open Government Partnership initiatives.

**5. Enhance** co-operation to further support Ukrainian local authorities in preserving their adherence to the principles of open government during the war, contributing to strengthening local and regional resilience.

## Co-ordination arrangements

1. The Parties acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding does not create any legal or financial obligations between the Parties.
2. It is understood that nothing in or relating to this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to be a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities enjoyed or which may be enjoyed by Parties, including their subsidiary organs and staff.
3. In implementing this Memorandum of Understanding or any project-specific co-operation, neither Party may use the names, including any abbreviation thereof, emblems, logos, trademarks or flags of the other Party, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or otherwise, without the prior express written approval of the other Party in each instance. In no event will authorisation to use the name, emblem or logo of OGP, the Congress and the AUC be granted for commercial purposes.
4. The Parties aiming to achieve the goals set in this Memorandum of Understanding, may use publications, tools, and methods of other parties developed by any of the signatory Party with the prior written consent of the Party to whom such publications and tools belong. Parties agree that, in such cases, will ensure appropriate referencing of any material used, referring to intellectual property rights of the Party concerned.
5. The Parties shall hold in strictest confidence any of the other party's confidential information and not distribute, disclose or convey such confidential information to any third party or make use of any confidential information for its own benefit or for the benefit of any third party.
6. Any dispute or disagreement between the Parties concerning the interpretation, implementation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to be settled amicably between the Parties without resort to legal proceedings.

*Signed in Rome, Italy, on 11 October 2022, in English and Ukrainian language, both texts being equally authentic.*



Oleksandr SLOBOZHAN  
Executive Director  
Association of  
Ukrainian Cities



Sanjay PRADHAN  
Chief Executive Officer  
Open Government  
Partnership



Rafael BENITEZ  
Director  
Congress of Local and  
Regional Authorities of  
the Council of Europe