



**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF  
BULGARIA (NAMRB)  
AND  
THE UNION OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
(SMO ČR)**

*The National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic called hereafter Parties, on behalf of their members, hereto agree to establish a General framework within which to cooperate on issues of common interest, by promoting the collaboration of Bulgarian and Czech Local Governments, with the objective to contribute to the exchange and cooperation between them in the economic, scientific and technological, cultural and other fields with a view to advancing social prosperity and progress and safeguarding of local communities. The Parties will make available their own knowledge, technology and expertise applied to the processes of cooperation of local institutions and to the creation of friendship-city relations.*

To this aim, both **NAMRB** and **SMO ČR** (“the Parties”) agree to:

**Article 1  
Fields of Cooperation**

Both Parties will develop mutual cooperation and provide support in all fields of common interest for their members and administrations. Also, such fields can be where some of the Parties have a specific need of assistance in a particular time. The priority fields of cooperation could be:

- Defending local governments interests in negotiations with central authorities;
- Problems and challenges in front Local authorities as beneficiaries under EU funds;
- Development of cooperation between Bulgarian and Czech twin municipalities;
- Problems of the mountain, peripheral and municipalities with a low population density;
- Preservation and development of cultural and historical heritage.

Both Parties can determine also other priority fields. It depends on the needs of their members and development of local democracy in the respective countries and in Europe.

## **Article 2**

### **Forms of Cooperation**

The forms of cooperation between the Parties could be:

- Exchange of useful information in all accessible ways with the priority of best practices in the municipal governance;
- Two-side visit exchanges, meetings, training and consultations in Bulgaria, Czech Republic or other countries;
- Exchange of results summarized from the consultations between members of the two organizations;
- Interaction between both parties representatives in multilateral international meetings, conferences and other forums of local authorities in Europe and the world wide;
- Joint development, application and participation in European and other funding projects, as well as with the other countries;
- Mutual support and assistance for cooperation development between members of the two organizations and twinning between the Czech and Bulgarian cities.

Both Parties may determine also other forms of cooperation.

## **Article 3**

### **Financial and Administrative Commitments**

This Agreement does not derive any direct financial commitments for the both Parties. All administrative activities or the concrete financial commitments for the joint events, invitation for the visits or other form of the above mentioned forms of cooperation will be a subject for the negotiations between both Parties for every particular case.

Both Parties select one or more expert from their administrations, as contact persons and operational relations for the implementation of the Agreement.

## **Article 4**

### **Amendments**

This Agreement of Cooperation may be amended at any time, by mutual consent of the Parties, through an exchange of communications between the persons occupying the positions of the signatories to this Agreement of Cooperation.

**Article 5**  
**Duration of the Agreement**

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signing by the two Parties and shall operate unless otherwise agreed between the Parties.

The Agreement was drawn up in two identical copies in English language – one for each party.

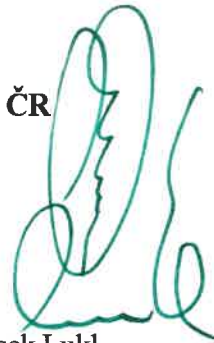
**Praha, 10 November 2016**

**For NAMRB**



**Ms. Donka Mihaylova**  
**Vice President**

**For SMO ČR**



**Mr. Frantisek Lukl**  
**President**