



MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION

between

The Council of Europe

and

The City of Mostar

for the implementation of the project

Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar

under the

Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021

Purpose

This Memorandum of Co-operation is concluded between the Council of Europe and the City of Mostar with the purpose of establishing a framework for co-operation and partnership in order to support the implementation of the Project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar" jointly by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the City of Mostar.

Rationale

Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspiration to enhance governance at all levels is supported by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe through the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar". The overall aim of the project is to restore citizens' trust in public authorities and to create opportunities for citizens of Mostar to engage in local decision making, and in particular in the deliberative process specifically designed for the City of Mostar.

This deliberative process is based on a tailored methodology that will allow randomly selected citizens to participate in deliberations of a Citizens' Assembly for the City of Mostar. This process will provide opportunities for dialogue among the citizens of Mostar, and with representatives of the City of Mostar.

The signatories of this Memorandum express their readiness and commitment to co-operate on strengthening local democracy and participation of the citizens of Mostar in local decision making, hold regular consultations and respect each other's status and obligations, in order to achieve the goals of the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar".

The signatories of the Memorandum of Co-operation commit to:

The Council of Europe

- Acknowledge the City of Mostar as the main partner of the project and ensure its visibility throughout the implementation of the project;
- Provide support to the City Council and the City Administration of Mostar in fostering a proactive and transparent approach to local decision-making processes and creating an inclusive environment to address citizens' needs and most pressing concerns;
- Support dialogue and co-operation between the City and the citizens of Mostar, within a deliberative process implemented jointly in the framework of the project;
- Provide expertise, professional and technical support and resources for the implementation of the project activities;

- Support co-ordination, communication and networking between this project and other relevant initiatives implemented at local, national and international levels, as well as with all relevant actors who can contribute to the realisation of the goals of the project;
- Present the developments towards the deliberative process and the results of the Citizens' Assembly deliberations through a dedicated web platform and relevant communication channels of the Council of Europe, in a transparent and timely manner;
- Extend co-operation and support on the deliberative process for the City of Mostar beyond 2021, as part of the Action Plan to be agreed between the Council of Europe and authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The City of Mostar

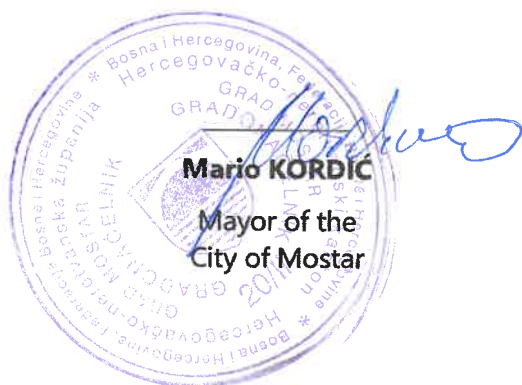
- Promote the project at the local, regional and international levels, in accordance with its capabilities and available media platforms (City website, print / electronic media, social media, press conferences);
- Delegate representatives of the City Administration and the City Council of Mostar to the governance bodies of the deliberative process and encourage their active participation in relevant activities, and in the evaluation of the project;
- Designate and authorise a representative of the Mayor in the City Administration, to co-ordinate with, and act as contact point for the project team of the Council of Europe;
- Allow pro bono the use of the official logo of the City of Mostar for key project materials;
- Undertake all necessary steps to ensure follow-up to the recommendations made by citizens during the deliberative process and address these in a timely manner including through the Municipal Council;
- Inform the Council of Europe on the discussions and decisions taken by the City Council of Mostar on these recommendations and on the means for ensuring sustainability of the solutions proposed;
- Promote and ensure a gender-sensitive approach in all areas of the Memorandum and promote, as much as possible, a gender-balanced representation in relevant activities;
- Contribute to the evaluation of Citizens' Assembly and its process;
- Analyse the potential benefits arising from the deliberative process and adjust the relevant strategies and policies that will lead to a more inclusive and sustainable approach in the decision-making process in the City of Mostar;
- Continue proposing such a deliberative model of citizen participation to enhance the quality of local democracy in the City of Mostar and consider holding a Citizens' Assembly in the period 2022/2023.

Entry into force

The Memorandum enters into force after the signing of the signatories, and the obligations arising from the Memorandum are valid until 31 December 2021. Upon expiration of this Memorandum, the partners shall decide on the continuation of cooperation. Termination of this Memorandum shall take effect when one of the partners so requests in writing.

Signed in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 9 July 2021 in English and in the official language of Bosnia and Herzegovina, both texts being equally authentic.

For the City of Mostar



Mario KORDIĆ
Mayor of the
City of Mostar

For the Council of Europe

Bojana URUMOVA

Head of the
Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo

