

**Memorandum of Understanding
(MoU)**

**To continue the cooperation
after the completion of the
Interreg Central Europe Project “GECohESive -
Governance Enhancement for Cohesive Societies”
(CE0100196)**

Memorandum of Understanding
(MoU)
Collaboration after the completion of
Interreg Central Europe Project “GEtCoheSive-Governance Enhancement
for Cohesive Societies” (CE0100196)

BETWEEN [1][2]

1. Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Dorsoduro 3246, 30123, Venezia (IT), PIC 999897341
2. Znanstvenorqziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Novi trg 2, 1000, Ljubljana (SI), PIC 999867950
3. Kulturno društvo Gmajna (Gmajna cultural association), Trubarjeva cesta 72, 1000, Ljubljana (SI), PIC 913529802
4. Skupnost občin Slovenije (Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia), Partizanska cesta 1, 2000, Maribor (SI), PIC 939869570
5. Comune di Parma (Municipality of Parma), Strada Repubblica 1, 43121, Parma (IT), PIC 996097754
6. CIAC Centro Immigrazione Asilo e Cooperazione Internazionale, (Centre for Immigration, Asylum and International Cooperation of Parma), Via Cavestro 14/A, 43121, Parma (IT), PIC 906960186
7. Technische Universität Berlin, (Berlin University of Technology), Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623, Berlin (DE), PIC 999986678
8. Caritas der Erzdiözese Wien Hilfe in Not (Caritas Wien), Albrechtskreithgasse 19-21, 1160, Wien (AT), PIC 942439585
9. Universität Wien (University of Vienna), Universitätsring 1, 1010, Wien (AT), PIC 999866883
10. ActionAid International Italia E.T.S., Via Carlo Tenca 14, 20124, Milano (IT), PIC 947194137
11. ASP Città di Bologna Azienda Pubblica di Servizi alla Persona (ASP City of Bologna Public Company for Personal care and welfare), Via Marsala 7, 40126, Bologna (IT), PIC 928945624
12. Initiative für Selbständige Immigrantinnen (Initiative for the Self-Employment of Immigrant Women), Kurfürsten Str. 126, 10785, Berlin (DE), PIC 951300535
13. Regione Emilia Romagna (Emilia Romagna Region), Viale Aldo Moro 21, 40127, Bologna (IT), PIC 999482375

14. Stadt Wien-Umweltschutz (City of Vienna-Environmental Protection), Dresdner Straße 45, 1200, Wien (AT), PIC 998030091

Herein referred to as a “Party”, individually, or as the “Parties”, collectively.

Preamble

Given that

- The Parties are, in line with what requested by the Annex 2 of the Interreg central Europe Programme Manual, project partners (PPs) or associated partners (APs) of “GEtCoheSive - Governance Enhancement for Cohesive Societies”, funded in the framework of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE programme (project ID CE0100196) herein referred to as “GEtCoheSive”;
- The Parties recognise, despite the results achieved through cooperation during GEtCoheSive, that there is still a need for further cooperation at different levels (from local to transnational) in order to address the participation gap experienced by the most vulnerable groups within European societies. As outlined in the Transnational Strategy for the Implementation of Participatory Governance (deliverable D3.2.2), accessibility barriers to the policy making process, tokenistic and discontinuous inclusion, and limited scalability have been identified at transnational level as the roots of this gap, thereby hindering the meaningful participation of the most vulnerable groups in decision-making processes;
- To address these challenges, GEtCoheSive delivered the following outputs, which the Parties intend to build upon even after the project’s completion:
 - *Output 1.1* Co-development and piloting of participatory and deliberative processes aimed at engaging vulnerable groups and third sector organizations;
 - *Output 1.2* Cooperation of the partners at transnational level in the designing, evaluation and dissemination of pilot actions;
 - *Output 2.1* Practice-oriented tools for strengthening civic engagement of vulnerable groups and a more effective relation between local authorities and Third Sector Organizations;
 - *Output 3.1* Strategy and action plan for achieving a participatory governance process with vulnerable groups and Third Sector Organizations;
- The Parties acknowledge that transnational cooperation is essential for addressing shared structural challenges, fostering innovation through collective learning, pooling resources, and generating political momentum through joint action.

Based on the foregoing premises, the Parties agree to cooperate in accordance with the provisions set out in the following Articles.

Art 1

Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

This MoU aims to reaffirm the Parties' commitment to continue their cooperation beyond the completion of the project, establishing a shared agreement on the specific topics of the cooperation, the implementation modalities, and the related terms and conditions.

Art 2

Topics of the cooperation

The Parties agree to cooperate on the following topics:

- 1) Identification of existing and emerging gaps in the participation of vulnerable groups in local decision-making processes.
- 2) Exchange of knowledge and best practices in participatory governance.
- 3) Sharing of opportunities to spread knowledge on participatory governance.
- 4) Updates on GETCohESive outputs and results and on their dissemination.
- 5) Promotion and support of the cooperation among the Parties.

Art 3

Terms of collaboration

Art 3.1 - Joint activities to be performed

The Parties commit to organize online participatory seminars.

Format, timing, and specific topics of each seminar will be agreed upon by all Parties in advance, ensuring that the event reflects the interests and expertise of each participant.

A non-binding list of topics to be addressed during each meeting may include:

- Monitoring and mapping social vulnerabilities: discuss existing and emerging social vulnerabilities within local contexts and highlight gaps in participation of vulnerable groups to be addressed in local decision-making processes.
- Exchanging knowledge and good practices: sharing new knowledge, methodologies, and good practices to enhance participatory governance.
- Updates on ongoing and upcoming initiatives: receive regular updates on projects and initiatives related to key themes developed during the GETCohESive implementation, including gaps in participation of underrepresented groups in local decision-making processes, participatory governance, forms of engagement of underrepresented groups with public and private organizations, tools and methodologies to facilitate and support participation.
- Follow-up on tools, strategies, and action plans: discuss and receive updates on practice-oriented tools, strategies, and action plans developed within the GETCohESive framework and monitor short- and medium-term progress of actions that were outlined during project implementation.
- Networking and dissemination: explore potential avenues for networking among the Parties and dissemination of GETCohESive outputs and results.

- Future collaboration and funding opportunities: share information on identified funding opportunities for future collaborative projects on participatory governance and related themes, including potential collaboration with other public and private organizations.

Art 3.2 - Means of cooperation

The seminars will be held twice a year and each seminar will be organized, on a rotating basis, by a different signatory of this MoU.

The first seminar will be organized by UNIVE, the first partner signatory to this MoU. The organizer shall ensure, in agreement with the other partners, the selection of the seminar date, the definition of the meeting agenda, and the technical/logistical support necessary for the implementation of the meeting, and shall be responsible for sending a report of the meeting. During each seminar, the Parties will also identify the Party in charge of the organisation of the subsequent seminar.

Art 3.3 - Roles and Responsibilities of Parties

Each signatory of this MoU undertakes to:

- within 2 months from the signature of the present MoU, identify, within its own institution, a contact person responsible for the implementation and execution of this MoU, and communicate their name and contact details to the other Parties, as well as promptly inform them of any change to the designated contact person;
- actively participate in the activities, keeping the MoU active and preserving its purposes and objectives;
- organize the seminar, in accordance with the rotation schedule agreed among the partners, in compliance with the procedures set out in this MoU and in coordination with the other Parties;
- share the names and contact details of its designated representatives to be included in a joint mailing list, to facilitate communications related to the organization of the seminars and to exchange information and collaboration opportunities beyond the seminar meetings.

Art 3.4 - Nature of collaboration

All activities described in this MoU are voluntary, informal, and non-binding, and do not imply any financial obligations on the part of the Parties.

Art. 4

Intellectual Property and confidentiality

Art 4.1 Intellectual property

The Parties acknowledge that nothing in this MoU shall affect ownership of any intellectual property rights.

Art 4.2 - Confidentiality

All data and information, written or oral, of any kind related to the collaboration expressly identified and marked as confidential by a Party shall be considered "Confidential Information". Oral information shall be recorded in writing by the Party disclosing it within fifteen (15) days after disclosure, and the resulting document shall specifically state the date of disclosure and designate the information as confidential

Confidential Information shall be used only for the purposes of this MoU, shared within the organization only on a need-to-know basis, and not disclosed to third parties without prior written consent.

Exceptions to confidentiality include information that is publicly available, already known to the Receiving Party, independently developed, obtained from a third party in good faith with the right to disclose, or required to be disclosed by law or judicial order (with prior notice to the Disclosing Party).

Confidentiality obligations remain in effect for five (5) years from disclosure.

Art. 4.3 – Personal Data Management

For the purposes of this MoU, the Parties may collect and process personal data of designated representatives, including names, email addresses, and phone numbers, solely to facilitate communication, coordination, and organization of activities under this MoU, including the creation and management of a mailing list.

Personal data shall be processed in compliance with applicable data protection laws, including the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Each Party shall ensure that personal data is kept confidential, secured with appropriate technical and organizational measures, and used only for the purposes of this MoU.

Personal data shall be retained only for as long as necessary to fulfill the purposes of this MoU, and upon completion of the activities or upon request of the data subject, shall be securely deleted or anonymized.

Art 5

Admission of New Partners

The Parties may agree to extend participation in this MoU to additional partners, provided that any proposal to admit a new partner is communicated in writing to all existing Parties and receives the unanimous consent of all current Parties.

Upon approval of a new partner, all Parties, including the newly admitted partner, shall sign a revised version of this MoU. The revised MoU may include updates or adjustments to reflect the participation of the new partner and any necessary modifications to the provisions of the original MoU.

The admission of the new partner and the applicability of any updates shall take effect upon the signature of all Parties on the revised MoU.

Art 6 Duration

This MoU shall be effective for two years from the date when the last Party signs and it can be renewed for further periods through mutual written agreement of the Parties.

Any Party may withdraw at any time by providing the other Parties with thirty (30) days advance written notice.

Art 7 Revision

The content of this MoU can be modified prior to the written consent of all Parties. The agreed changes and modifications shall in no way alter the validity and effectiveness of the remaining content and they shall be annexed to this MoU.

Art 8 Compliance with applicable rules and regulations

The Parties will collaborate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including ethical regulations and standards, data protection and privacy and compliance requirements.

1.

Name of legal representative(s):

Signature

Date