

Framework Agreement among National Associations of Municipalities from: Italy, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland

Rome, 16 July 2004



National Association of
Italian Municipalities



Association of
Municipalities and
Towns of Slovenia



Union of Towns and
Communities of Czech
Republic



Association of Towns
and Communities of
Slovakia



Hungarian National
Association of Local
Authorities



Association of
Polish Cities

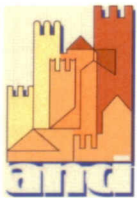


Due to the fact that:

- ANCI promotes and enhances, among its institutional tasks, international relations and developing cooperation activities for municipalities, in a solidarity approach with local governments;
- ANCI is engaged, since many years, to strengthen relationships with Local Bodies' Associations of EU countries, Balkans area and Third Countries;
- the ANCI National Council, met in Brussels on 17 February 2004, urged on and foster the development of solidarity activities as well as cooperation among European Local Bodies to improve common interests and to reach a more structured participation in debates and in European decision-making process;
- since some years the National Associations of the Central and Eastern European Countries have set out forms of co-operation involving Cities, Associations and Local Italian Public Bodies in specific sector of local interest;
- the Local Governments National Associations of new member States represent a significant institutional body as concerning the new European model addressed to citizens and territories.

Considering that:

- since the opening of its office *IDEALI* in Brussels, on 2003, ANCI has set out a more effective co-operation with the National Associations of Municipalities of EU Member States and the candidates ones, through their direct involvement for the presentation of common documents to European institutions, the participation to Conventions and Seminars and moreover to community projects;
- the Office *IDEALI* brings together Associations, public and private bodies operating within the Local Autonomies' System, which will be involved in the initiatives enhanced by this Agreement;
- co-operation amongst Local Bodies and their Associations in Europe can give a useful contribution to put in practice policies and European legislation, as well as to identify best practice to disseminate;
- National Associations of Municipalities of Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland have, at different times, showed their interest in collaborating with ANCI and its Office in Brussels and have recently indicated specific sectors and activities where to concentrate a concrete and profitable collaboration;



National Association of
Italian Municipalities



Association of
Municipalities and
Towns of Slovenia



Union of Towns and
Communities of Czech
Republic



Association of Towns
and Communities of
Slovakia



Hungarian National
Association of Local
Authorities



Association of
Polish Cities



All things considered, ANCI - National Association of Italian Municipalities, SOS - Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia, SMOCR - Union of Towns and Communities of Czech republic, ZMOS - Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia, TÖOSZ - Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities, ZMP - Association of Polish Cities, thereafter designated as “Parties” they agree on developing common projects, institutional and political initiatives, in order to strengthen the participation of the six Associations to the EU’s political life. To this aim, parties agree upon matters and operative modalities, subject of the aforementioned collaboration.

Art. 1 – Institutional initiatives

- Parties aim at promoting **comparison among the Associations and the organisational enhancement and development of National Associations which sign the Agreement**, particularly in referring to statutory organisation and relationships with associated bodies; they also aim at enhancing institutional dialogue with other territorial and national governmental levels;
- Parties are engaged in a profitable cooperation and a more effective coordination as regards the **relationships with the European institutions**, particularly with the **European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions**, so as to increase the participation of the involved Associations in European policies debate, the visibility and the impact for initiatives carried out by parties;
- Parties are engaged to co-ordinate their own positions either by presenting policy papers during official **consultations** promoted by the European Commission, or by responding to European Commission’s Communications on European policies or specific issues of common interest for Local Bodies;
- Parties are engaged to cooperate for adequately representing interests of their own Associated Municipalities in Europe, by focusing on **four European policies** of interest for Local Governments, where to coordinate their own activities and political initiatives: **environmental policy, urban policy, regional policy, including the management of structural funds, and the immigration and integration policy for third countries nationals**;
- Each Party do will involve the other Associations to interesting and useful Conferences and Seminars so as to develop the institutional co-operation and the strengthening of local bodies’ representation in Europe.



National Association of Italian Municipalities



Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia



Union of Towns and Communities of Czech Republic



Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia



Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities



Association of Polish Cities



Art. 2 Cooperation areas

Parties are engaged in a more effective co-operation principally in areas such as:

- **Public local services**, mainly in the field of mobility and waste management;
- **Culture**, particularly as regarding the educational training, the protection, the preservation and the improvement of cultural heritage of Local Bodies;
- **Territorial Sustainable Development**, particularly the co-operation among little municipalities in order to improve the management of services, the territorial marketing initiatives, the entrepreneurial development and the services to enterprises, the sustainable and lasting tourism;
- **Urban Development**, such as re-qualification of suburban areas, management of environmental urban issues, strategic plans for urban development;
- **Employment and Social Policy**, particularly social services, public housing, social inclusion measures for less advantages categories and immigrants integration;
- **Good Governance**, in particular in the sectors of innovation of Local Public Administration and new technologies, as well as in the communication strategies to citizens.

Art. 3 Implementing modalities

- a) Organisation of training courses for Local Public Administration officers under the supervision of experts from Associations and associated Municipalities;
- b) Exchange of experiences and best practices among Associations and Municipalities involved into the sectors mentioned in Art. 2;
- c) Enhancing officers' exchange among Associations and/or associated Municipalities;
- d) Drafting communitarian projects presented by the National Associations;
- e) Constitution of a common data-base for finding out partners amongst their own Associations so as to implement projects;
- f) Organisation of seminars/conferences on common interest's issues for Local Autonomies.

As referring to initiatives deputed to enforce participation of Associations to European political life as mentioned in Art. 1, ANCI individuates in the *IDEALPS* Office the supporting structure for implementing common activities.



National Association of Italian Municipalities



Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia



Union of Towns and Communities of Czech Republic



Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia



Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities



Association of Polish Cities



Art. 4 – Resources and Tools

Parties are engaged to **search for financing or co-financing** at national, community and international level, to support common activities consistent with the objectives of the present Framework Agreement.

A section of the *IDEALI* web site in English language will be dedicated to communication and information flow among Associations to reach the Framework-Agreement objectives. Furthermore, an interactive section will be realised to communicate initiatives, events, search for partnership and expertise, etc. etc.

The ANCI's **Office IDEALI** in Brussels will be available for the Associations which have signed the Agreement to organise events and meetings, and it can also be used as branch office for the personnel of the Associations that will go to Brussels to take part in meetings or work sessions.

Art. 5 – Structure and functioning of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is conceived as a flexible structure able to rapidly act and take strategic or stimulating decisions within the mandate assigned from the six participant Associations.

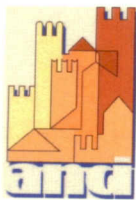
It is constituted by two delegates for each Association, twelve in general, one at political level and the other at executive one.

The group will meet regularly, no less of two times for year, upon request of one of the Parties or on the basis of a common decision taken at the end of each meeting.

The Steering Committee will operate as interface amongst Associations, as concerning proposals for institutional initiatives - as indicated in the article 1 - and as well as for realising objectives consistent with the co-operation in the sectors indicated at the article 2.

Art. 6 – Publicity of the Agreement

Parties are engaged to spread off contents of the present Agreement towards each significant institutions of their Countries, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Intern etc. and to the European institutions and every other involved actor. Parties are engaged to make all it is necessary for implementing the present Agreement.



National Association of Italian Municipalities

Done in Rome, 16 July 2004

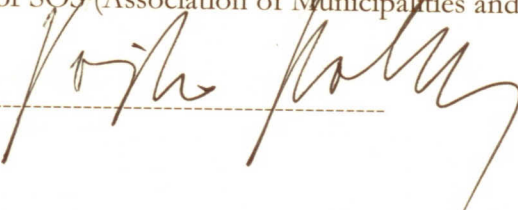
For ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities)





Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia

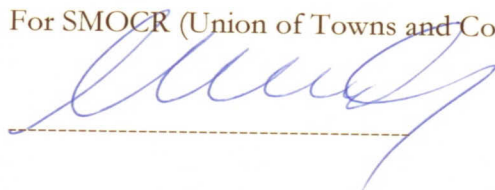
For SOS (Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia)





Union of Towns and Communities of Czech Republic

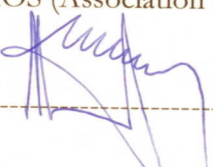
For SMOCR (Union of Towns and Communities of Czech Republic)





Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia

For ZMOS (Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia)





Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities

For TÖOSZ (Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities)





Association of Polish Cities

For ZMP (Association of Polish Cities)

