

APPENDIX: Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of Republic of Kosovo and CiviKos Platform

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

**between**

**the Government of Kosovo**

**and**

**CiviKos Platform**

Committed to

- **Building democracy**, which values the activity of civil society and supports the individual's right to free association with others by creating a favourable legal environment for the operation and strengthening of civil society organizations?
- **Active citizenship, by enabling citizens to participate in decision-making;**
- **Pluralism**, Pluralism, based on the diversity of identities and interests within Kosovo, including minority groups, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities, supporting the right of each group to express, on behalf of its own interests ;
- **Human rights by promoting respect for each other as individuals, and also as members of the community with shared values;**
- **Equal opportunities**, in order to prevent discrimination and improve conditions and circumstances, to give opportunities to all members of society to realize their rights.
- **Transparency, which requires from institutions to be open in decision-making, communication and accountability, the fight against corruption with the aim of creating conditions for prosperity for all.**
- **Inter-sectorial work, to promote inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial cooperation in order to respond to the complex needs of society, which often cannot be divided.**
- **Sustainable development**, which meets the needs of present, without hampering opportunities of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Better cooperation** of public institutions, citizens and their associations.

We would like to coordinate our efforts to achieve common goals and to establish a comprehensive partnership. In this memorandum, we agree that with following provisions we shall improve our cooperation:

#### **Article 1 - Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a framework of the Government and civil society organizations for cooperation, which will result in building the Government Strategy for cooperation with civil society organizations.

#### **Article 2 - Determination of concepts**

For purposes of this memorandum, the following concepts have the following meanings:

The concept **Citizen** shall mean all individuals who live in Kosovo legally.

**Civil society organizations** are considered all types of organizations established based on freedom of association, and which are not established for the purpose of obtaining benefits such as: associations, foundations, and other organizations of a similar nature, no matter whether they are registered or not.

**Civil society** shall mean the cooperation of citizens based on free initiative, to realize their own interests, to discuss public issues and to participate in the decision-making process, as well as associations, networks, institutions, etc. that enable such cooperation.

### **Article 3 - Partnership**

#### *Commitments of the Kosovo Government*

To encourage the building of good practice and cooperation methods in decision-making, the Government is obliged to:

- Cooperate with the civil society sector to develop policies;
- To promote effective dialogue by using a suitable plan;
- Cooperate with the civil society sector on issues that are a concern of any party, in an open spirit of partnership;
- Recognize the role of CiviKos and other representative organizations of civil society in representing the views of the membership, without denying the right of individual organizations to represent their opinions;
- Ensure that in the policy development process, the impact will be fully considered that policies may have on civil society sector and community groups;
- To assure citizens that all information available to the government are open for public, unless otherwise specified by law, and
- Consider the resource constraints faced by the sector of civil society to participate in decision-making and partnership.

#### *Commitments of civil society organizations*

To cooperate with the Government, its portfolios, as well as other public institutions, civil society sector is obliged to:

- Promote the values of working in partnership, based on the interest of their members, their service users and general public;
- Ensure that would be a maximum possible effort to inform a much wider circle of civil society organizations for cooperation with the government to develop policies and practices that promote effective dialogue;

- work with the Government on issues that concerns any party and in open spirit of partnership;
- Ensure that their representatives are properly informed and supported in all meetings of the partnership, and
- To respect the confidentiality of government information, if confidentiality is determined in accordance with the procedures set out in law.

#### **Article 4 - Resources**

##### *Commitments of the Kosovo Government*

Financial support of projects of civil society organizations will be based on clear procedures for job appraisal performance. The Government shall:

- Implement every time best practice in funding and administration of grants, including timely payment of funds approved;
- Implement best standards for monitoring the work of publicly funded, as well as to promote and implement procedures "best estimate" in order to ensure equal treatment, according to previously defined criteria of civil society organizations;
- To focus resources, including non-financial resources, effectively, considering the needs of society changes;
- Maintain documentation in order to document that it is considered the potential impact on civil society sector, as part of policy development, and
- Respect the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information, in accordance with legal procedures.

##### *Commitments of the Civil Society*

In the use of public resources, the sector of civil society organizations is obliged to:

- Protect and support the importance of good management of financial and non-financial resources, as well as to promote better standards of management, including support eligibility with public resources;
- Make an effort to ensure "best value" to the stated objectives of the use of resources, and to implement procedures and promote "best value" in ways that ensure equal treatment of civil society organizations;
- make monitoring, evaluation job performance, prepare and submit reports under the agreement, to ensure effective use of resources, and

- accept that public resources are limited, and that the Government's contribution is based on the priorities set by policy.

## **Article 5 - Implementation**

### *Commitments of the Kosovo Governments*

In supporting to this Memorandum, the Government, with the assistance of the Ministry and its agencies, led by the Office on Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, is obliged to:

- set up effective plans and procedures to implement this Memorandum;
- establish the unit to monitor and evaluate the actions of the Government, together with civil society sector;
- establish mechanisms to enable the inter-ministerial cooperation in order to build the Government's strategy for cooperation with civil society.
- promote the spirit and principles of the Memorandum in all sectors of government, its agencies and other public institutions, including municipal public institutions, and
- report regularly on the progress of implementation of the memorandum to CiviKos, Kosovo Government and general public.

### *Commitments of Civil Society*

In supporting to this Memorandum, civil society organizations is obliged to:

- inform a greater number of civil society organizations and the general public on the Memorandum, the achievements that society benefits from the Memorandum and obligations that civil society sector should fulfil to realize the memorandum;
- promote the spirit and principles of the memorandum in contact with the government, public institutions, including municipal public institutions;
- establish a proper unit, along with government institutions to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Memorandum, and
- report regularly on the progress regarding implementation of the Memorandum to civil society organizations, Office on Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, Government and to general public.

## *Article 6 – Signing and entry into force*

The memorandum shall be signed today on 09/11/2007 in two original copies, effective upon the signature by the parties and in the presence of authorized representatives of all civil society organizations, members of CiviKos.

To Government of Kosovo

To CiviKos

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Agim Ceku

Prime Minister

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Linda Bunjaku

Chairperson