



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**between the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**

**and**

**the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)**

### **Background**

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, hereinafter referred to as UNITAR and the Union of the Baltic Cities, hereinafter referred to as UBC, have agreed to sign this Memorandum of Understanding as an expression of their wish to co-operate on issues of interest and benefit for both parties.

Whereas UNITAR is:

- The United Nations body which provides training at various levels to persons, particularly from developing countries, for assignment with the United Nations or specialized agencies and for assignments in their national services which are connected with the work of the United Nations, the organizations related to it, or other institutions operating in related fields.
- UNITAR has established the Decentralized Cooperation Programme, which is a hub for information, communication and training between United Nations Agencies and local actors, such as local authorities, public and private companies, civil society and academia.
- Project activities are implemented through specific regional structures, called CIFAL Centres (CIFAL: French acronym for International Training Centers for Local Authorities). CIFAL Centres were created to provide training to local authorities and their public and private partners at the local level. 11 associated CIFAL Training Centres have been established in Atlanta / United States; Barcelona and Bilbao / Spain; Curitiba / Brazil; Divonne-les-Bains and Lyon / France; Durban / South Africa; Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia; Ouagadougou / Burkina Faso; Plock / Poland and Shanghai / China.

- The training programme focuses on four major areas: Environment and Sustainable Development, Urban Services, Local Governance as well as Human Security. The particularity of the programme is the training methodology, which is based on techniques of Knowledge Management. This approach encourages interactive knowledge exchange among local authorities' representatives. This training approach often results in sustainable city-to-city cooperation both in the context of South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation as well as partnerships between cities from the North.

Whereas UBC is:

- a representative organization of more than 100 member cities in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. It is a voluntary, proactive network mobilizing the shared potential of the cities for mutual interests and goals. UBC is a platform for Baltic Sea Region Cities to meet and work together.
- UBC is a spokesman for its members in the Baltic Sea Region issues and promotes the Region in Europe and in the World. By its Statute, the UBC is committed to achieving sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. In this context, UBC seeks cooperation partners all over Europe and globally.
- UBC, based on its statutes and strategy, and specified in its Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities, is strongly addressing sustainable development in the Baltic Cities and is contributing to Baltic Sea Regional, European and Global co-operation on sustainable development. An important part of this large action programme is capacity-building activities targeted to UBC members in the fields of 1. Good governance and sustainable urban management, 2. Sustainable use of energy and resources, 3. Good living environment and nature protection, 4. Sustainable economy and transport, and 5. Social integration and health.
- Most of the practical cooperation between the UBC members is carried out in some of the eleven thematic UBC Commissions (Business Cooperation, Culture, Education, Environment, Health and Social Affairs, Information Society, Sport, Tourism, Transportation, Urban Planning, Youth) and in the Women's Network. The UBC is implementing its Agenda 21 Action Programme through an "open house" approach in co-operation with numerous other organisations of local authorities and other relevant actors at the Baltic Sea Region and in Europe.



## **Objectives**

Both parties have agreed to formalize their working relations and to consider joint activities in pursuit of the following objectives for example:

1. To provide improved services for UBC members through knowledge-management-based capacity-building activities in specific joint activities and/or projects.
2. To use the existing expertise and experiences of UBC and its member cities in global development co-operation. This expertise – for instance in the fields of Sustainable Urban Development, E-Governance, Environment and Transport – can be exported globally. One option is the UBC experts and member cities' contributing to and attending CIFAL seminars, another opportunity would be the organization of international seminars for local authorities on specific subjects, such as E-Governance, in UBC member cities. Larger joint projects may also be considered.
3. To analyse the potential for joint development co-operation activities with other regional local authorities' organisations and other relevant actors. One possibility for this can be strengthening of the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC), for example through training sessions for local authorities. In addition, UNITAR offers to establish contact to the United Nations Development Programme's Innovative Partnership Office to explore fields for cooperation between UNDP and LVRLAC.
4. To facilitate the establishment of direct contacts between UBC and such international associations of local authorities which have relevant potential for sustainable development and capacity-building activities, and are not yet partners of the UBC (such as FLACMA, PDM, etc.) in order to create useful new partnerships and increase UBC's international visibility.
5. To identify and approach – when relevant and beneficial for both parties and their respective programmes and units – international funding programmes which could be relevant for funding UBC's and UNITAR's joint training and capacity building activities for local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region and globally.
6. To inform private enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region about the opportunities of partnering with UBC and UNITAR, and of opportunities to contribute through technical expertise and financially.

## **Modalities**

1. UBC shall become an official member of UNITAR's Decentralized Cooperation Programme and will be invited to participate in the annual Steering Committee where partners from the programme agree on its future development.
2. UNITAR shall be invited as a co-operation partner to relevant UBC meetings and conferences.

3. UBC's logo can be included in all relevant publications of the Decentralized Cooperation Programme.

4. The UN logo as well as the UNITAR logo may under no circumstances be used by UBC without the written approval of UNITAR.

5. The main contact persons to implement this Memorandum will be:

for UBC

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and for UNITAR

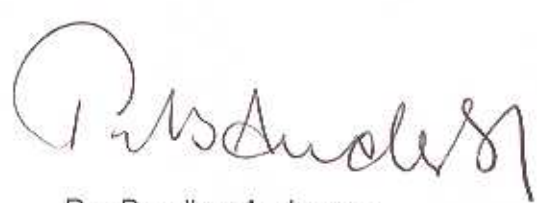
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This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended as the parties hereto may mutually deem fit and necessary.

This Memorandum of Understanding, as an expression of the willingness and intention of both parties to co-operate with each other, will come into force on the date of its execution by both the parties and will remain in force until such time as it may be terminated by either party by giving ninety days advance notice in writing to the other party.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in two identical copies (one for each party).

  
Marcel A. Boizard  
UNITAR Executive Director

  
Per Boedker Andersen  
President of UBC