



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**the FORUM OF ADRIATIC AND IONIAN CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE (AIC FORUM)**

and

**the DANUBE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION
(DCCA)**

COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND
COORDINATION OF ACTIONS AIMED AT THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE
ADRIATIC-IONIAN AND DANUBE REGION AREA

Between:

*AIC FORUM – FORUM OF ADRIATIC AND IONIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Registered office at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture of
Ancona
Largo XXIV Maggio, 1 60123 – Ancona (Italy)
Represented by Ms. Mirjana Čagalj, President of the AIC FORUM*

And

*DCCA – DANUBE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION
Registered office at the Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Krisztina krt. 99. 1016 Budapest (Hungary)
Represented by, Mr. András Rév President of DCCA*

HAVING SAID THAT

- the Association *Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce* (hereinafter referred to as AIC FORUM) is a voluntary and transnational non-profit association of Chambers of Commerce and Economy, which was set up under Italian law with the aim of starting and developing the economic, environmental and cultural integration between the Chambers of Commerce and of the Economy of the countries facing the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, of making a concrete contribution towards the fulfilment of European integration and enlargement and the realization of the Action Plan of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Area;
- the *Danube Chambers of Commerce Association* (hereinafter referred to as DCCA, i.e.) is a voluntary and transnational non-profit association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Danube Chambers of Commerce Association is an organization to harmonize the activity of the chambers along the Danube region in consideration of the Danube Strategy, attend to the interest of the area's enterprises. DCCA's mission is to create a single platform of economic opportunities enhancing the economic – financial cooperation, strengthening the cohesion between the entrepreneurs and enterprises operating in different countries of the macro-region, along horizontal principles. The Association is model of the cross-border macro-regional institutional cooperation, which aim is to revive the region's economy and competitiveness and at last but not least to increase the welfare of the inhabitants.;
- within the framework of the European Cohesion Policy, the European Union has provided for the 2014-2020 programming period several tools of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg. European Territorial Cooperation is one of the two goals of the cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. This can help both Associations in the joint promotion of initiatives aimed at supporting the economic, social and environmental sustainable development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube area, and specifically:

ERDF Transnational cooperation programmes:

- o INTERREG V-B DANUBE (Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020)
<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/>
- o INTERREG V-B Adriatic-Ionian cooperation programme 2014-2020
<http://www.adrioninterreg.eu/>

- the networking system represented by the Chambers of Commerce of the two Associations can surely favour crossborder and transnational planning activities that are able to develop the territorial potential and excellencies of the entire Adriatic-Ionian and Danube area, thereby being in line with the aims of good partnership required by the European Union;
- the bilateral collaboration between the AIC Forum and DCCA for the implementation of actions in favour of the socio-economic development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Mediterranean area seems to be particularly fruitful and suitable in order to best fulfil the associations' statutory purposes, also in view of enhancing access to the community and international economic resources specifically devoted to the joint promotion of investment projects in developing countries and transition economies;
- both associations are stakeholders in Macro-regional strategies of the European Union. AIC Forum in the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region Strategy and DCCA in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and many of the members are from countries that are a part of both EU Strategies and having said that the collaboration between the two associations should lead to better implementation of both.

Having stated all the above,

the AIC FORUM and DCCA agree upon the following:

1) PURPOSE OF THE PROTOCOL OF INTENTION

This protocol rules the general operational framework of the future cooperation between the AIC FORUM and the DCCA through a series of joint initiatives for the sustainable development of the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube area.

2) WORKING PLAN OF THE ACTIVITIES

The collaboration will be developed following the terms explained below:

- during the entire 2014-2020 programming period, promotion of a rational use of community funds available to promote crossborder and transnational cooperation

of the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube area through the setting up of partnerships targeted to specific project initiatives;

- collaboration for the reciprocal exchange of information and updates as for events, financial opportunities, community programmes and/or national and regional initiatives that might be useful to promote and support projects of common interest, which are strategic for the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube area;
- collaboration in activities of promotion and assistance to firms that are willing to invest in the countries of the area concerned, with special focus on local norms, tax systems, tax relief, international contracts, agreements between businesses, marketing activities;
- coordination of reciprocal institutional missions abroad to reinforce reciprocal relations of cooperation and develop a constant information flow that can be shared and updated also through the respective reference website of each member association.

3) CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION

The above premise represents an integral part of this Memorandum and is essential for its implementation. For this reason, each page of this protocol will have to be duly signed.

4) VALIDITY

This document will become operational on the date of its notification. Both Parties have the right to terminate the agreement at any time, after giving their counterpart notice of 30 (thirty) days. In this respect, DCCA and the AIC FORUM commit themselves not to jeopardize in any way the activities or initiatives started within the framework of this agreement.

5) DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any dispute deriving from or related to this agreement, including disputes concerning the interpretation or application of any of the clauses contained in the same agreement, will be settled by the Parties out of court.

6) AMENDMENTS

This agreement can be amended at any time by means of a written agreement stipulated by the Parties. This agreement will be implemented on the basis of the regulations and internal administrative norms ruling the internal administration of the Parties.

In witness of this, the signatories to this protocol have signed this agreement in two original copies in English version on the date indicated below.

Mrs. Mirjana Čagalj

**President
AIC FORUM**

Mirjana Čagalj



Mr. András Rév

**President
DCCA**

Novi Sad, Serbia, 29 November 2018