

AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION

- 1. The Ministry of Public Administration (hereinafter referred to as MPA)¹**
- 2. The Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection (hereinafter referred to as MWEP)²**
- 3. The Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Housing (hereinafter referred to as M.P.W.T.H)³**
- 4. The United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP)⁴**
- 5. The Romanian Federation of Local Authorities (hereinafter referred to as RFLA)⁵**

express their willingness to cooperate in respect of implementing the Local Agenda 21 programme in 40 Romanian municipalities, and jointly agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 1

The purpose of the present agreement is to set up the framework for funding and implementing the programme on “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity for the Implementation of Local Agenda 21 at Local Level” according to the Romanian legislation in force. The programme will run during 2002 –2007, in compliance with the principles stated in the Rio Summit of 1992, particularly chapter 28.3:

- Local authorities will enter into a dialogue with its citizens, local organizations and private enterprises and adopt Local Agenda 21;
- Through consultation and consensus-building in the above partnership framework, local authorities will acquire the information needed to formulate the best strategies;
- Local authority programmes, policies, laws and regulations to achieve Agenda 21 objectives would be assessed and modified, based on local programmes adopted;
- Strategies could also be used in supporting proposals for local, national, regional and international funding.

¹ MPA provides support and methodological guidance for the local public administration authorities system for the uniform application of the legislation and regulations issued by ministries and other authorities of the public central administration.

² MWEP issues policies in the field of water management and environmental protection at national level, formulates the strategy and specific regulations; it acts as a state authority, integrating, coordinating and providing control over water and environment protection concerns.

³ MPWTH issues the National Plan for Physical Planning, integrating the sectoral and local policies and plans, with a view to their harmonisation; it also checks on compliance with the plan, once approved by law.

⁴ UNDP is the United Nations’ development agency.

⁵ RFLA is a non-governmental organization.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 2

The objective of the present agreement is to formulate and develop the action plan on implementing the Agenda 21 programme in technical, institutional and financial terms, until the October 1, 2002.

Article 3

The action plan and future programme, including training programmes for civil servants in the local and central public administration, will be implemented through specialized institutions; civil servants of the National Administration Institute and Regional Centres for Continued Education will be particularly targeted.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SIGNATORIES

III.1 Responsibilities of MPA

Article 4

MPA will set up a Central Unit for Public Administration Reform, as a body coordinating and monitoring the activities to be developed during the formulation and implementation of the programme.

Article 5

MPA, through its Central Unit for Public Administration Reform, provides support to Prefectures, County Councils, Local Councils and the General Council of Bucharest Municipality in fulfilling the present agreement.

Article 6

MPA and the signatories to this agreement will endorse the funding applications related to the implementation of the sustainable development programmes.

Article 7

MPA, UNDP and the other signatories to this agreement will organize periodical meetings with the donor community with a view to facilitate the funding of all the stages of the project, as per the work plan.

Article 8

MPA and the signatories to this agreement set the criteria to select the municipalities where the sustainable development programmes will be implemented.

Article 9

The Prefectures, County Councils, Local Councils and the General Council of Bucharest Municipality will cooperate with the environment protection inspectorates to achieve the objectives of the environment component of Local Agenda 21.

Article 10

MPA, MPWTH and the local authorities will identify the objectives of national interest and will contribute to promotion of the latter in the framework of international programmes.

III.2 Responsibilities of MWEP

Article 11

MWEP designates the Directorate for Strategies, Policies and Regulations as the structure to coordinate and monitor the activities to be developed during the formulation and implementation of the programme.

Article 12

MWEP, through its Directorate for Strategies, Policies and Regulations, provides support to the environment protection inspectorates in their activities pertaining to the purpose of the present agreement and programme delivery.

Article 13

The environment protection inspectorates will cooperate with all local authorities to implement the environment protection component of Local Agenda 21.

Article 14

The research institutes under MWEP coordination and the Administration of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve will cooperate with the environment protection inspectorates to implement Local Agenda 21.

III.3. Responsibilities of MPWTH

Article 15

MPWTH designates the General Directorate for Land Planning and Urbanization as the structure to coordinate and monitor the activities to be developed during the formulation and the implementation of the programme.

Article 16

MPWTH, through its General Directorate for Real Estate Cadastre and City Management, will provide support to the local authorities in establishing the Real Estate and Urban Cadastre.

Article 17

MPWTH will cooperate with the local authorities to formulate the sustainable development land planning strategy on the basis of the existing General Urban Plans (GUP), as well as other research and regulations that might be required.

Article 18

MPWTH, through specialized institutes, will support the local authorities in developing programmes that prevent and combat natural disasters (earthquakes, landsliding).

Article 19

MPWTH will initiate actions and will cooperate with the local authorities in protecting historical, architectural or landscape areas, and in integrating these into the modernization process for the municipalities and other areas.

Article 20

MPWTH, through its General Technical Construction Directorate, will participate in the production of guidelines and methodologies for local authorities to integrate sustainable development principles in construction policies.

Article 21

MPWTH and the local authorities will identify objectives of national interest and will participate in their promotion in the framework of international programmes.

Article 22

MPWTH will support the formulation and implementation of an IT programme for urban databanks.

Article 23

MPWTH will provide support to the local authorities in the formulation of metropolitan/intercity/ intercommunal development studies.

Article 24

Specialists from MPWTH will participate in the training activities for public administration civil servants, in order to improve their professional standards in land planning and urbanization.

III. 4. Responsibilities of UNDP

Article 25

UNDP and the signatories to the present agreement will grant financial support to the programme, along with other donor institutions.

Article 26

UNDP will monitor the performance and results during implementation of the program.

Article 27

UNDP shall observe and audit the utilization of the NCSD financial resources for the designated target mutually agreed upon by the signatories.

Article 28

UNDP shall sustain the institutional development of the programme by involving the local public organizations and the NGOs involved in project development.

III.5. Responsibilities of RFLA

Article 29

RFLA will support, through its own communication channels, exchange of information with local authorities in order to improve the performance professional standards of the civil servants.

Article 30

RFLA will make available data and project information on issues of relevance to the program.

Article 31

RFLA shall support the participation of civil society structures in the programme design and implementation process at municipality level.

Article 32

RFLA will participate in setting the selection criteria for the municipalities in which the program will be implemented.

Article 33

RFLA shall disseminate relevant programme results achieved during implementation of the programme at local level.

IV. SPECIAL NOTE

Article 34

The agreement makes special reference to The National Centre for Sustainable Development (NCSD). NCSD is the executing agency of UNDP's current LA 21 project and will play a key role in the development and implementation of the next phase of the LA 21 programme in Romania.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 35

Within 15 days of signing the present agreement, each signatory will appoint two representatives to prepare the action plan of the agreement, as members of a working group. During the first meeting of the working group, to take place prior to 31 December 2002, operational guidelines and terms of reference will be agreed upon by the signatories.

Article 36

The present agreement can be amended only upon consent by all parties.

Article 37

The present agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature, and shall be valid until 31 December 2007.

Ministry of Public Administration

Octav Cozmanca
Minister

United Nations Development Programme

Soknan HAN JUNG
Resident Representative

Ministry of Waters and Environment Protection

Petru Lificiu
Minister

Romanian Federation of Local Authorities

Emil Calota
President

Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Housing

Miron Mitrea
Minister