

## DECLARATION

The European Union provides several funding opportunities, through centrally coordinated programs that concern all European countries.

However, organising and submitting proposals to these programs cannot be performed by individual bodies. The formation of a consortium consisted of various partners, which in most cases come from more than one country, is necessary. Unfortunately, it is difficult for the Municipalities to identify these funding programmes and the provided opportunities that meet their needs and goals, as well as to write well-integrated proposals. Moreover, they lack networking experience so they cannot form expert groups and promote their proposals. Even in the cases where the participation is achieved, the terms of involvement are not so beneficial for the Municipalities and depend on those who have created the proposal.

It should also be mentioned that the problem of effective coordination also exists in the utilization of funds in general, wherever they come from, when inter-municipal proposals are required that demand the cooperation of many Municipalities and other bodies with each other or when the proposals regard specialized issues.

The initiative for the formation of the Cities Network "Sustainable City" intends to fill this gap. "Sustainable City" will be established as a civil non-profit organization with the intention of providing substantial technical assistance in the fields of networking and management to the participating Municipalities to the network, so that they can submit and implement proposals to European Programmes and exploit the additional available funding provided. The Network itself will also be able to participate in proposals and assist their implementation afterwards.

Another major problem in today's world is the excessive use of natural resources and energy reserves, to the extent that provisions should be laid down. Anthropogenic activities that have been proven to have a significant impact on the environment should be designed and implemented so that in addition to upgrading the living standards of citizens, the effects on the environment are minimized.

We especially take this into account in shaping the appropriate orientation of the Network, in order to direct and focus its activities on issues of sustainable development and sustainability, circular economy and energy savings while reducing carbon emissions.

Moreover, any actions should be aimed at Climate Change adaptation, which is now proven to be evolving as a phenomenon. Parallel actions should be directed and strengthen the framework of effective water resources management since the climate change, the development of modern models of social organization, technological developments and overpopulation cause serious problems in water management and adequacy of this valuable good.

Municipalities of Greece and Cyprus, which share common characteristics, participate in the Network achieving cross-border cooperation and provision of assistance (to all Greeks) in the field of technical competence for submitting European proposals. Universities and Institutions of recognized prestige will also participate.

The first concern of the Network will be the coordination and organization of its launch. The first assistance to staff (secretariat) will come from the Municipalities themselves.

The Headquarters of the Network will be the Municipality of Pylos - Nestoros while at the same time a branch will be created in a space that will be provided by the Municipality of Elliniko - Argypolis and will be the focus of the activities. The creation of branches at the headquarters of each member will be possible and very soon an office will be created in Brussels and Cyprus.

The first actions that will be implemented, aim at organizing the available information and informing the members about the available funding possibilities:

### **1. Recording European Programs and funding**

All European Funding Programs will be identified, open calls as well as future ones will be recorded and the profile of potential participants, restrictions and opportunities will be described.

### **2. Recording information and needs of Municipalities**

A database of information of all members will be constructed and the targets and priorities will be described by indexing the technical and operational programs. The next goal will be the formation of groups and the development of proposals for submission.

### **3. Team organization and proposal development**

Based on the above results, teams will be organized for planning and submission of proposals that will come from similar goals and will correspond to open or future calls for funding programs.

### **4. Provision of technical assistance to the Municipalities**

Depending on the type of proposals, the technical assistance that will be provided will be designed and organized, based on thematic areas and actions.

In this phase, the best practices that are proven to be followed by the various members of the network with significant success in their field should be identified, since in many cases excellent and successful applications have undoubtedly been developed by them. This will give the opportunity of disseminating and sharing these good practices with the rest of the members.

### Thematic areas and actions

The organization will develop support actions, organised in the following thematic areas:

Thematic Areas	Actions
Sustainable touristic development	Alternative tourism
	Exploitation and promotion of the cultural heritage
Environment - Sustainability	Efficient use of resources
	Waste management – Recycling
	Circular Economy
	Zero waste
	ISO 14000
Social responsibility	Creative employment of young people
	Support for Social and Cooperative enterprises
	Support for vulnerable groups
	Citizen service
Energy saving	Energy upgrade
	Covenant of Mayors
	Energy management
	ISO 50000
Efficient management	Reorganising of procedures
	ISO 9001
	Partnerships between actors
	Competitions

Today, March 10, 2017, a founding conference is held with the participation of members and the representation of important bodies.

The conference decides the Establishment of the Cities Network in the form of a civil non-profit organization with the name: **"CITY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY"** and the distinctive title **"SUSTAINABLE CITY"**.

The conference decides on the approval of a draft statute and the promotion for decision-making by the Municipal Councils and the governing bodies and is committed to the completion of the procedures until its establishment within two months.

The declaration is signed by the members.

Athens, March 10, 2017