



## **The Joint Declaration for the URBAN PLATFORM DANUBE REGION**

**Bucharest, 28th October 2013**

We, the Cities, Regions and City associations of the Danube Region agree on the following aims and principles:

We agree with the European Commission that “Cities and metropolitan areas are the engines of economic development. They are also on the frontline when it comes to tackling obstacles to growth and employment, such as social exclusion and environmental degradation”. The Danube Region is one of the European regions with the largest density of cities, many of them capital cities, and metropolitan areas, giving the Region a potentially powerful and competitive polycentric urban structure.

We confirm that, if the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is to be successful, the goals of Europe 2020 and of the new EU structural fund period must be implemented especially in urban regions, as was recognized in the Action Plan for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region on 8 December 2010.

We take note that due to the historical, economical and geographical reality of the Danube Region, the dissemination of information and experiences and the transnational exchange and cooperation between the cities, regions and city associations of the Danube Region, although having a long tradition in some areas, can still be improved.

We invite cities, regions and city associations of the Danube Region, to join the Council of Danube Cities and Regions to build, in the spirit of the Action Plan for the EU Strategy of the Danube Region, an Urban Platform, which shall support the cities and regions of the Danube Region to become strong stakeholders in a shared Danube Strategy.

The Urban Platform Danube Region shall build on existing structures such as the Council of Danube Cities and Regions as well as other networks or associations of cities and regions in the member countries of the EUSDR. It shall work with a lean organization, underpinned by an electronic platform monitored by members of the Urban Platform (“Advisory Committee”) and a Secretariat.

We intend, through the “Urban Platform Danube Region”, to support the institutions of the EUSDR and the EU Commission in the sense of multi-level governance as well as to serve as a strategic partner to the national governments in their implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

We aim, with the creation of the “ Urban Platform Danube Region” , at systematically extending the cooperation between cities, city associations and regions, throughout the entire Danube Region and on all levels of governance, to further, through the exchange of information and experts and best-practice projects, through common studies, conferences and strategies the central aim of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region:

“By 2020, all citizens of the Region should enjoy better prospects of higher education, employment and prosperity in their own home area. The Strategy should make this a truly 21<sup>st</sup> century region, secure and confident, and one of the most attractive in Europe.” (Communication from the Commission on the EUSDR, 8 December 2010).