



ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS



GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS AND THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

This general cooperation agreement is entered into by the Association of European Election Officials (hereinafter “ACEEEO”), represented by its General Secretary, Mr. Zsolt Szolnoki, and the Central Election Commission of Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter “CEC Kosovo”) represented by its President, Ms Valdete Daka. The above institutions, hereinafter referred to as „Parties”,

Acting in their capacity as institutions authorised to sign international cooperation agreements;

Wishing to formalize their relationship in joint effort by reaffirming their affinities;

Reaffirming their commitment to democracy and placing their trust in free and fair democratic processes and generally accepted human rights norms;

Aiming at strengthening democratic institutions so as to improve the management and administration of the electoral process, as well as the resolution of disputes in electoral matters;

Recognizing the common interest in establishing formal cooperation mechanisms in order to undertake various joint activities including the exchange, consultation and cooperation in electoral programs and activities;

Intending to continue the successful cooperation implemented in the framework of the previous cooperation agreement.

Shall enter into an agreement on the following:

ARTICLE 1

The aim of the present Agreement is to participate in exchange programs and projects, consultation, cooperation and technical support organized by ACEEEO, in matters related to electoral administration.

ARTICLE 2

To fulfill the aim of this Agreement, various activities shall be undertaken, most notably:

1. To promote the increase of exchange opportunities between electoral authorities of the ACEEEO and CEC Kosovo;
2. To organise in joint effort international events on topics of common interest.
3. To conduct comparative studies on topics of common interest.
4. To exchange information, documentation, publications, electoral legislation, material related to civic education and audiovisual material.

The „Parties” may accord participation to other organisations or electoral authorities in any of the activities to be undertaken.

ARTICLE 3

To carry out the activities in the framework of the General Agreement, the “Parties” shall formulate in writing specific agreements in which terms and conditions of the corresponding activities shall be established. These agreements shall indicate the commitments relating to the activities to be carried out, the origin of the necessary financial resources and the legal status of the personnel involved.

The specific agreements verified in the framework of the General Agreement shall be considered individual annexes to the present instrument.

In the text of each agreement the mechanisms to validate it shall be established. This can be done by fax or e-mail, in order to facilitate its formalization. Additionally, each document shall establish the commitments that have been arrived at by agreement between the “Parties”.

In the case of activities in the undertaking of which other institutions participate as well, the “Parties” shall decide whether the corresponding specific agreement is to be signed by other bodies.

ARTICLE 4

A Coordinating Committee shall be set up, consisting of Mr. Zsolt Szolnoki, Secretary General of the ACEEEO, and Ms. Valdete Daka, President of CEC Kosovo.

The powers and duties of the said committee shall be:

1. Communication, coordination between the “Parties”.

2. The planning and undertaking of activities to be carried out within the framework of this Agreement.
3. To approve the specific agreements – set out in the previous article - entered into to carry out activities within the framework of this General Agreement.

ARTICLE 5

The cooperation criteria on which the present document is based, rest on the following:

1. Collaboration in the framework of equality, respecting the full autonomy and rights of each of the “Parties”.
2. CEC Kosovo accepts the Charter of ACEEEO and the general objectives of the Association, and CEC Kosovo expresses its demand of the settlement of its member status in written form toward the General Assembly of ACEEEO, who is the competent body deciding such request.
3. The activities arising from this General Agreement shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and other norms of each of the “Parties”, and the laws and other norms prevailing in the institutions and countries involved in the activities.

ARTICLE 6

The activities to be undertaken in the framework of this Agreement shall be carried out through the financial schema of shared costs, which may be economic or in kind.

The “Parties” and, if applicable, the other institutions involved in the carrying out of each activity shall define the contribution of each institution, as part of their organization.

ARTICLE 7

This agreement of minds has been arrived at in good faith; consequently, any conflict that may arise concerning its interpretation, application and execution as well as conflicts regarding compliance with this agreement shall be resolved by common accord between the “Parties”.

ARTICLE 8

The officials, professional staff and technical experts involved in the management of the present Agreement shall agree to the following:

1. The personnel commissioned by each of the "Parties" to carry out activities or assignments planned or arising from the signed document shall continue working under the supervision and as subordinates of the institution they belong to and in no case shall employment relationships be established with other institutions.
2. The personnel commissioned must not carry out any activities unrelated to their tasks and must not receive any remuneration apart from the one agreed on previously without previous authorization from the "Parties".
3. The personnel seconded by one institution to another one shall subject themselves to the national laws in force in the country where the corresponding activities are to be carried out.

ARTICLE 9

The present agreement shall be in effect until **31st December 2018**. The agreement may be renewed, modified or terminated at the request of either of the "Parties", communicating their wish in writing at least thirty calendar days in advance.

The termination of the present Agreement shall not affect the carrying out of actions formulated while it was in effect.

Having read the present instrument and having been informed of all parts of its content and scope, this document, prepared in two originals, each of them in English, both versions being equally authentic, is signed on 14 January 2016.

ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS



Mr. Zsolt Szolnoki
SECRETARY GENERAL

ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRAL
ELECTION COMMISSION OF KOSOVO



Ms. Valdete Daka
President of CEC