



Komuna e Podujevës /Republika e Kosovës  
Opština Podujevo/ Republika Kosova  
Municipality of Podujevë/ Republic of Kosovo



## **COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

Between

**MUNICIPALITY OF PODUJEVA, REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA**

and

**CITY of AMES, IOWA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

for

**INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL COOPERATION  
IN THE CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND INSTITUTIONAL FIELDS  
AND TO INCREASE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES  
THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

CONSIDERING the willingness between the parties to cooperate in the field of International Municipal Cooperation through this agreement.

RECOGNIZING that participation in such activities is voluntary and involves bilateral cooperation on a fair, reciprocal, and trusting basis, and in accordance with international principles and rules of loose cooperation.

REFERRING to the Law on Local Self-Government no.03/L-040, articles 17 and 30, the Law on Inter-Municipal Cooperation, no.04/L-010, article 18 and the Regulation on the procedure for international municipal cooperation 0203/1334, the Law on Arbitration no.02/L-75, the Decision of the Municipal Assembly no.prot.01-016/01-0093821/22 date: 07 November 2022 on the approval of the request-initiative for international municipal cooperation - twinning with the City of Ames, Iowa, in the United States of America and the Municipality of Podujeva-Republic of Kosovo, the parties agree to reach this Cooperation Agreement as follows:

## **Article 1**

### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this Agreement is international local cooperation between the Municipality of Podujeva in the Republic of Kosovo and the City of Ames, Iowa, in the United States of America regarding mutual development needs and exchange of experiences in the areas that are the object of this Cooperation Agreement.
2. Cooperation will be implemented on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit.

## **Article 2**

### **SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT**

International municipal cooperation between the Municipality of Podujeva in the Republic of Kosovo and the City of Ames, Iowa, in the form of twinning between the two Municipalities/Cities, parties to this Agreement.

### **Article 3**

#### **AREAS OF COOPERATION**

By the aim of developing and promoting international municipal cooperation in the form of twinning between two respective Municipalities/Cities, the Parties in this Agreement agree that cooperation, among other possible areas, will be developed in the following areas:

- Agriculture - Expertise in various fields of agriculture & in the processing of local agricultural products;
- Education - Student exchange (Study opportunity for a cycle of studies at Iowa State University) mainly from the fields of agriculture, business, entrepreneurship, engineering, etc.;
- Culture Youth and Sport - cooperation in various activities in culture, youth and sports.
- Institutional Cooperation - exchange of various experiences related to governance and local policy development;
- Cooperation in the field of local economic development;
- Cooperation in the field of social housing;
- Cooperation in employment and mutual visits of citizens including communities, etc.

### **Article 4**

#### **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE AGREEMENT**

1. The signatory parties express their free will to cooperate in the areas under this Agreement and at the same time commit to the realization of mutual rights and fulfillment of obligations, whether financial or otherwise, resulting during the implementation processes of this Cooperation Agreement in the form of Twinning.
2. The Municipality of Podujeva, from its municipal budget, assumes all expenses arising from the implementation of this Agreement for activities where the Municipality of Podujeva is the initiator and bearer of the activities.
3. The City of Ames, Iowa assumes all expenses arising from the implementation of this agreement for activities where the City of Ames is the initiator and bearer of the activities.
4. The parties in this agreement agree to form a joint group which will be responsible for the implementation of this agreement.

**Article 5**  
**OTHER OBLIGATIONS**

The Parties shall take the necessary measures to carry out activities in all phases of the implementation of this Agreement and the signing of other subsequent acts arising from this mutual cooperation and related to municipal-international cooperation in the form of twinning.

**Article 6**  
**COORDINATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

The Parties to this Agreement agree to appoint a representative to carry out the joint activities defined in this Cooperation Agreement.

**Article 7**  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

1. This Agreement enters into force on the day of signing and remains valid as long as the two cities are in cooperation/twinning with each other, or until another act agreed upon between the parties.
2. The termination of this Agreement shall be made by mutual agreement between the signatory parties.
3. This Agreement may be supplemented and amended depending on the will of the signing parties, and shall be made by an act which shall be part of this Agreement.
4. This Agreement is drafted in 3 original copies in the three official languages (Albanian, Serbian, English), with the signatory parties receiving 1 copy each.

*Podujevë, on :\_\_ / \_\_ / 2025*

**Municipality of Podujeva**

**City of Ames, Iowa**

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**Shpejtim BULLIQI, Mayor**

**John A. Haila, Mayor**