

**Cooperation Agreement between the County of Sibiu
and Region Västra Götaland of Sweden**

The county of Sibiu in Romania and **Region Västra Götaland** in Sweden, hereinafter referred to as the **Parties**,

In agreement with the policy of the European Union which encourages and promotes cooperation between local public authorities of the member states,

In view of the Romanian-Swedish friendship and cooperation relations and the close cooperation at European level,

Appreciating the opportunity of cooperation between the County of Sibiu, Romania and Region Västra Götaland of Sweden aimed at identifying and deepening several joint projects,

In view of the bilateral exchanges between the County of Sibiu and Region Västra Götaland during the year of 2016 on the occasion of the official visits from April 2016 in Sweden and from October 2016 in Romania,

Relying on our common desire to develop and intensify the Romanian-Swedish cooperation also at the level of the local authorities, educational institutions and other institutions and organizations from the County of Sibiu, of Romania and the Region Västra Götaland of Sweden,

With a view to take a first step in the establishment of a concrete collaboration mechanism between the representatives of the County of Sibiu, of Romania and of the Region Västra Götaland of Sweden,

The Parties have agreed to develop their cooperation as follows:

Article 1. Object of the Cooperation Agreement

The object of this Cooperation Agreement is the setting up of a favorable framework to the development of a solid partnership through the initiation of joint programmes, projects and activities aimed at ensuring sustainable development in the following fields: public administration, culture, education, creative industries.

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signed on, in

Article 2. Main directions of cooperation

The signatories to this Cooperation Agreement agree on the following main directions of collaboration:

- The organization of actions aimed at promoting the existing cultural and tourism potential of the two regions;
- Cooperation between the culture institutions of the two regions and the promotion of the mobility of those who work in the field of creative industries;
- Support for the development of an economy of creative and cultural industries in the county of Sibiu and of Region Västra Götaland;
- Development of sustainable cultural policies in both regions, with focus on crafts, natural and built heritage and intercultural dialogue;
- Supporting exchanges of experience between various cultural actors in order to achieve new skills and competences;
- Launching joint promotional activities such as workshops, seminars, exchanges, missions in order to stimulate the mutually advantageous development, economic and entrepreneurial opportunities of the county of Sibiu and of Region Västra Götaland;
- Development of joint projects based on the European financing provided for the 2014-2020 programming period;
- Involvement of relevant partners with a view to fulfil the objective of the agreement, such as: the *ASTRA* Sibiu National Museum Complex, the *Lucian Blaga* University of Sibiu, the Sibiu County Tourism Association *from County of Sibiu in Romania*, the University of Goteborg (Sweden), Västarvet Foundation for the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, Turistradet Västverige (tourism association from West Sweden) and Kultur I Väst, *from Region Västra Götaland in Sweden*.

Article 3. Action Plan

A joint operational action plan will be drawn-up on a yearly basis and the mutual commitments of the parties will also be defined each year through mutual agreement based on the documents approved by the Sibiu County Council and by the Council of Region Västra Götaland.

Article 4. Coordination of cooperation activities

Each party shall appoint a coordinator entrusted with the efficient implementation of this Cooperation Agreement. The coordinators appointed by the Parties shall draw up an implementation plan and suggest additional actions to be carried out by both Parties.

Article 5. Practical financing methods

The County of Sibiu and Region Västra Götaland hereby commit to mobilize in accordance with the law all necessary human, material, informational and financial resources needed for the implementation of the main cooperation directions and of the action plans. These resources shall be established with the Parties' agreement depending on the capacity of each partner or organization involved.

With regard to the travel and accommodation expenses, the cost sharing principle shall apply: the international transport and accommodation costs shall be covered by the travelling partner and the local expenses of the delegations shall be covered by the host partner.

With regard to the costs associated with the action plans, the financial participation of each partner shall be negotiated in a coordinated manner and shall be the object of the identification of financing and co-financing sources, approved through a decision of each separate council for each proposed project or action.

The Parties will bear the expenses occurred inside this Cooperation Agreement, in the limits stipulated by the national legislation of the states of both Parties.

Article 6. Duration of the Agreement

This Cooperation Agreement is valid for an unlimited period and produces effects since the signing date.

Any Party may terminate this Cooperation Agreement through written notification. Such termination becomes effective in the 30th day after the date of notification.

Article 7. Dispute Settlement

Any dispute risen in relation to the interpretation or enforcement of this Cooperation Agreement shall be solved amiably by the Parties, through direct negotiations.

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Article 8. Final provisions

This Cooperation Agreement is a framework agreement and covers the whole activity aimed at achieving the agreed upon objectives.

This Cooperation Agreement may be amended or completed in writing through the mutual agreement of the Parties. Any amendment and completion produces effects from the signing date.

The expiry of this Cooperation Agreement shall not affect the implementation of the programmes and projects started during its validity period, unless agreed differently by the Parties.

Signed in (city)....., on, in 2 (two) originals, each copy in Romanian, Swedish and English, all texts being equal authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For
The County of Sibiu,
in Romania

President
Daniela CÎMPEAN



For
Region Västra Götaland
in Sweden

President
Magnus BERNTSSON

President of the Culture Committee
Conny BRÄNNBERG