



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**, represented by prof. Ing. Josef Kozák,  
DrSc., dr.h.c.,

hereinafter referred to as the "**Pilot Partner**"

and

**Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate**, represented by Adrian Novak,  
**FEDENATUR**, represented by Mariá Martí,  
**Vitosha Nature Park Directorate**, represented by Neli Doncheva, as well as  
**Municipality of Lisbon**, represented by Carlos Souto Cruz,

hereinafter referred to as "**Peer Review Partners**"

and

**Prague-Troja Municipality,**  
**Prague-Ďáblice Municipality**  
**Sokol Troja,**  
**Local civic association Troja Trojou,**  
**Local civic association Tři duby**  
**Local civic association Podhoří je v Troji**  
**Local civic association Troja dětem**  
**Local civic association Trojská iniciativa**  
**Local civic association IUS Naturalis**  
**Local civic association Na Rybárně**  
**Local civic association Předměstí Troje**  
**Local civic association STOPA**  
**Gallery "Trojský kůň",**  
**Foundation Proměny,**  
**Q. Schwank Foundation,**  
**Land owners**

hereinafter referred to as "**Stakeholders**"

THE PARTIES HERETO MUTUALLY AGREE AS FOLLOWS :



## F O R E W O R D

The present Memorandum of Understanding is made within the framework of the European INTERREG IVC Project PERIURBAN PARKS and the related contractual agreements between the partnership consortium and the European Commission for its implementation. Partners from this INTERREG IVC Project, together with two EU networks focused on periurban areas have, through technical exchange and shared experience, drawn a series of common conclusions and key aspects to be further addressed, particularly concerning:

- The importance of supporting existing parks to become periurban parks, by linking them to the urban environment with physical and social connections;
- The multifunctional nature of periurban parks, which are often characterised by a coexistence between natural areas that must be protected and environmental landscapes created during a process of co-evolutions between humans and nature, in which human presence is necessary to maintain those very territorial specifications;
- The importance of periurban parks, not only as a factor for ecological stability and connection and for the protection of biodiversity and prevention of environmental risks, but also in terms of an element that can help generate a sustainable and recognisable city form, both at local and regional level;
- The relevance of the periurban park as a framework tool for the definition of processes of local socio-economic development, through the sustainable promotion of environmental, cultural, social and economic resources.

The PERIURBAN PARKS project recommends affirming the specific nature of periurban parks by further cooperation between the Pilot Partner, Peer Review Partners as well as Stakeholders on the basis of Memorandums of Understanding. These Memorandums of Understanding are signed between partners interested in cooperating on specific themes also beyond the project end. Cooperation can be bilateral or multilateral and could involve the entities from outside the project who have been constantly involved in project activities.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF COOPERATION

### TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The INTERREG IVC PERIURBAN PARKS Project documents and especially the Toolkit (Common Methodology), the Good Practices and the Policy Recommendations as well as the specific objectives of the aforementioned project, in special to:

- improve socio-economic conditions in often degraded suburban areas of European cities and contain urban sprawl
- Promote societal well-being, especially in an urban context, where environmental conditions tend to correlate directly to public health
- Reduce environmental risks, including floods and the impact of the urban heat island effect, being made worse by climate change
- Enhance biodiversity, often strongly reduced in urban and peri-urban areas
- Offer free recreational alternatives for leisure and new job opportunities in the current difficult economic context

### CONSIDERING THAT:

Natural and rural spaces located in peri-urban areas, with the right support and management, can fulfill the above mentioned objectives as they are essential elements of landscape and green infrastructure, as this has been set out and specified in the framework of the project Policy Recommendation (see Annex).

For this scope, the Pilot Partner, the Peer Review Partners and the Stakeholders

### AGREE:

1. To consider, when defining urban and environmental policies, the important role that the periurban park can play in protecting the environment and in producing eco-system services (e.g. absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gas mitigation, improvement of the local microclimate, preservation of water resources, prevention of flooding risk and provision of a healthy environment within walking distance from the city);
2. To integrate, in the context of territorial planning, periurban parks as a key element for the construction and maintenance of ecological corridors at local and regional level. This can strengthen the double role that the periurban park can play in terms of a component of the territorial eco-systemic structure for environmental stability and biodiversity protection and in terms of a regulatory element for the requalification and surveillance of development in urban areas;



3. To promote the role of periurban parks, given their active approach to safeguarding the local territory, as a support tool for local socio-economic development and for the design of integrated and coordinated policies for social cohesion and cultural promotion:
  - Concerning local economic development, the role of the periurban park is important in that numerous activities can be undertaken in an innovative and sustainable form, thus diversifying the local economy. Such activities range from sustainable, low impact agriculture, to forestry activities, to sustainable tourism, to energy production such as biomass and many more;
  - On the social and cultural front, in addition to the touristic value, periurban parks have a role to play in terms of education and research into environmental issues and in general awareness raising among the population on the importance of protecting environmental and cultural heritage;
  - Moreover, by reconnecting urban residents with environmental values, the park can promote social cohesion and solidarity with actors operating to maintain and develop this territory (e.g. farmers, voluntary associations, cultural and tourist workers, etc).

## ACTIONS

The exact activities which are required in order to achieve the aforementioned goals are defined by project partners themselves on the basis of:

- The **Common Methodology** (C3) and how it can be applied in their local area / in their parks;
- The **test phase** (C4), in which stakeholders have been involved and partners have shared their ideas with them and gained their feedback;
- Other opportunities that have arisen (e.g. local funding; EU funding; policy changes),

The Pilot Partner proposes both to the Peer Review Partners and the Stakeholders, who accept, the following Actions according to the Action Plan hereto attached.

### ACTION 1

This is an action that needs to be driven on the metropolitan level. The objective is to implement officially the concept of periurban parks and green belt into actual and prepared land-use planning documentations (new Metropolitan plan of Prague) and consequently in detailed planning tools (Regulatory plans, General plan) in terms of having effectual tools for protection and management of those areas. It is also essential to create a common basis of communication and cooperation between the particular city districts, organisations and surrounding municipalities and to promote the importance of periurban areas for the whole city. The overall aim is to establish a functional system that will ensure the sustainable long-term care of the landscape within the green belt.

### ACTION 2

This action concerns a wider local area of Trojská kotlina that comprises several city districts. The objective is to create a Periurban park and to ensure a system of an effective administration. This will need to elaborate a Care plan for the Park and to establish a responsible administration body.

### ACTION 3

This action is carried out on the local level of the Prague district of Troja. It includes a foundation of a local Action group promoting the development of the periurban park, a series of cultural and educational activities enhancing public awareness of the importance of the periurban landscape and ensuring the necessary care of the park.



## SIGNATURES

Prague, Czech Republic, on October \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

**Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**, represented by prof. Ing. Josef Kozák,  
DrSc., dr.h.c.,

**Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate**, represented by Adrian Novak,

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## ANNEX

### PERIURBAN Project Documents

1. Policy Recommendations
2. Toolkit (Common Methodology)
3. Good Practices
4. Pilot Partner Work Plan
5. Pilot Partner Action Plan