

**ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AWARDED THE EUROPE PRIZE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES**

June 2, 2018

Lublin (Poland)

Participants:

1.	Viktor Rud (moderator)	– moderator, representative of the presiding city, Director of International Cooperation Department of Kharkiv City Council	Kharkiv (Ukraine)
2.	Tetyana Varenko (secretary)	– secretary, Head of International Relations and European Integration of the International Cooperation Department of Kharkiv City Council	Kharkiv (Ukraine)
3.	Yulia Zghurska	– Deputy Director of International Cooperation Department of Kharkiv City Council	Kharkiv (Ukraine)
4.	Ivan Nemichev	– Deputy Director of International Cooperation Department of Kharkiv City Council	Kharkiv (Ukraine)
5.	Ionut Marian Stroe	Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
6.	Aiste Ramanauskaite	- Secretary of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development	Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
7.	Herbert Hofauer	– Mayor of Altötting	Altötting (Germany)
8.	Patrizia Armbruster	– Main Office of the Mayor	Altötting (Germany)
9.	Andrzej Szewiński	– Vice-Mayor of Częstochowa	Częstochowa (Poland)
10.	Adrian Staroniek	– Social Policy Department Head	Częstochowa (Poland)
11.	Jolanta Urbańska	– Councillor	Częstochowa (Poland)

12.	Joanna Iskierka	– Administrative Office Head at the Mayor's Office	Częstochowa (Poland)
13.	Jochen Biedermann	– Head of City Development Division on Social Affairs of the Citizens Service	Berlin (Bezirk Neukölln) (Germany)
14.	Dierk Molter	– Councilor	Darmstadt (Germany)
15.	Danuta Styk	– Gdynia City Councilor	Gdynia (Poland)
16.	Elżbieta Sierżęg	– Gdynia City Councilor	Gdynia (Poland)
17.	Ruslan Martsinkiv	– Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk	Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine)
18.	Katarzyna Daab-Borkowska	– Director, Administration Department	Katowice (Poland)
19.	Reda Švelniūtė	– Chief Expert in the Division of International Relations and Economic Development	Klaipėda (Lithuania)
20.	Krzysztof Żuk	– Mayor of Lublin	Lublin (Poland)
21.	Ulrich Scholten	– Lord Mayor	Mülheim-un-der Ruhr (Germany)
22.	Sabine Kuzma	– office for town partnerships and Europe	Mülheim-un-der Ruhr (Germany)
23.	Ingrid Heihs	– City Councilor	St. Pölten (Austria)
24.	Róbert Szénási	– City councilor	Szeged (Hungary)
25.	Tibor Papp	– Director of Foreign Affairs	Szeged (Hungary)

Agenda:

- Speeches of the new members of the Association (Lublin, Ivano-Frnakivsk).
- Presentations of the participants on the topic of the General Assembly and the Youth Meeting “Direct Democracy: Civil Initiatives and Their Implementation Mechanisms (Participation Budget and Other Urban Initiatives”
- Determining the venue of the next Presidium to be held in 2018.
- Setting the date of the next Presidium to be held in 2018.
- Determining the venue of the next General Assembly to be held in 2019.

- Setting the date of the next General Assembly to be held in 2019.
- Determining the topic of the next General Assembly to be held in 2019.
- Adopting the new revision of the Statutes of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize.
- Approving the mock-up of the seal of the Association.
- Creating the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine.
- Adopting the Regulation on the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine.
- Approving the Head of the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine.

The General Assembly heard:

- the moderator, representative of the presiding City of Kharkiv, the Director of the International Cooperation Office of Kharkiv City Council, Viktor Rud, who welcomed those present on behalf of the Mayor of Kharkiv, Gennadiy Kernes, thanked the hosting City of Lublin, wished fruitful work and gave the floor to the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr. Ionut Marian Stroe;

- the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ionut Marian Stroe, who greeted those present, acquainted them with upcoming opportunities from the Parliamentary Assembly and informed them that the priority focus areas in the European community will be tolerance, civic involvement and children;

- the moderator, who announced the agenda and put it to vote.

The agenda was adopted unanimously unchanged (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who, by the first item on the agenda, gave the floor to the new members of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize: the representative of the City of Lublin (Poland), which received the Europe Prize in 2017, the Mayor of Lublin, Krzysztof Żuk, and the representative of the City of Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine), which received the Europe Prize in 2018, the Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ruslan Martsinkiv;

- the representative of the City of Lublin, which received the Europe Prize in 2017, the Mayor of Lublin, Krzysztof Żuk, who greeted those present, said that it

was a great honor for Lublin to be hosting the General Assembly as in 2018 the city is celebrating the 700th anniversary since Lublin was granted city rights and made a brief presentation of the city that primarily rests on friendship, openness and education;

- the representative of the City of Ivano-Frankivsk, Mr. Ruslan Martsinkiv, who greeted those present, thanked the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for honoring the city with the Europe Prize and the Mayor of Lublin for the warm welcome, noted that it was a great honor for Ivano-Frankivsk to have been awarded the Europe Prize and that it was the achievement of the citizens, showed a short film about the city, expressed the city's intent to actively participate in the Association's activity, proposed to host the next General Assembly of the Association in September 2018 for it to coincide with the occasion of the city receiving the Europe Prize and invited those present to visit Ivano-Frankivsk on September 28, 2018 for celebration of the Days of Europe and the receipt of the award;

- the moderator, who proceeded to the next item on the agenda and gave the floor to the representative of the City of Częstochowa (Poland), Vice-Mayor of the City of Częstochowa, Mr. Andrzej Szewiński;

- the representative of the City of Częstochowa, Vice-Mayor of the City of Częstochowa, Mr. Andrzej Szewiński, who made a presentation on the local government's dialogue with its citizens as a praxis of the City of Czestochowa, showcased the citizens' engagement in the city life through discussion and implementation of social initiatives, emphasized the attractiveness of involving in the process of NGOs and the importance of identifying and addressing the needs of the people;

- the moderator, who gave the floor to the representative of the City of St. Pölten (Austria), City Councilor, Mag. Ingrid Heihs;

- the representative of the City of St. Pölten (Austria), City Councilor, Mag. Ingrid Heihs, who made a presentation of St. Pölten as a European capital of culture, outlined the city's strategy for 2020s and showcased how the city organizes a cultural forum, invites people from different parts of the city for a cultural tour, talks to its citizens through collection of their propositions;

- the moderator, who gave the floor to the representative of the City of Lublin (Poland), Mayor of Lublin, Mr. Krzysztof Żuk;

- the representative of the City of Lublin, Mayor of Lublin, Mr. Krzysztof Żuk, who made a presentation of Lublin as a city of solidarity with focus on direct

democracy as a toolkit for citizens engagement, “citizen budget” and other urban initiatives, showcased the city’s cultural initiative of creating districts of culture that increase intergenerational integration and help involve neglected places, presented the social participation model of civic panel and outlined the green budget program;

- the moderator, who gave the floor to the representative of the City of Darmstadt (Germany), Councillor, Dierk Molter;

- the representative of the City of Darmstadt, Councillor, Dierk Molter, who made a presentation of how the “citizen budget” in Darmstadt works in suggest-comment-discuss format with citizens’ engagement online and offline;

- the moderator, who gave the floor to the representative of the City of Szeged (Hungary), City Councillor, Róbert Szénási;

- the representative of the City of Szeged, City Councillor, Róbert Szénási, outlined the smart city concept implemented in Szeged, showcased how innovation and smart solutions are called on to in order to help improve citizens’ life in Szeged by enabling them to make online payments for utilities, school meals, rent, parking, fares, etc, providing WiFi on buses and public transport stops, commissioning hybrid trolleybuses, etc.;

At the time of the General Assembly, the presiding city had an application from Częstochowa (Poland) to host the Presidium on December 07, 2018.

- the moderator, who proceeded to the next item on the agenda and put to vote the candidacy of Częstochowa as the hosting city for the Presidium of the Association and the date thereof being December 07, 2018;

- the representative of Częstochowa, Mr. Andrzej Szewiński, who referred to the desire of the city to dedicate the Presidium of the Association to the 20th anniversary of the city’s membership in the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize, and therefore asked the participants to support the candidacy of Częstochowa as the hosting city.

The proposition to conduct the Presidium in Częstochowa on December 07, 2018 was supported unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

At the time of the General Assembly the presiding city had an application from Szeged (Hungary) to host the 2019 General Assembly on September 06-07, 2019.

Since the date of the next General Assembly on the agenda was to be 2019, the proposition to host it in September 2018 submitted by Ivano-Frankivsk at the beginning of the meeting was declined, with the proposition for the city to re-apply during the 2019 General Assembly after the city has officially received the Europe Prize.

- the moderator, who put to vote the candidacy of Szeged as the hosting city for the General Assembly of the Association and the date thereof being September 06-07, 2019;

- the representative of Szeged, Mr. Tibor Papp, who referred to the city's previous experience in hosting the General Assembly in 2009, explained the importance of revitalization of the city's involvement in the activity of the Association and the desire to dedicate the General Assembly to the 300th anniversary of the city, and therefore asked the participants to support the candidacy of Szeged as the hosting city.

The proposition to conduct the General Assembly in Szeged on September 06-07, 2019 was supported unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who proposed that the participants come up with the topic for the 2019 General Assembly;

- the representative of the City of Szeged, Mr. Tibor Papp, who proposed the topic to be "Smart Cities";

- the moderator, who put the proposed topic to vote in the general revision with the proposition to specify it during the 2018 Presidium.

The proposition of the general revision of the topic "Smart Cities" for the General Assembly 2019 to be specified during the 2018 Presidium was supported unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who outlined the main changes reflected in the draft of the new revision of the Statutes of the Association, with new articles added to specify the powers of the governing bodies of the Association and the interaction between them, articles on the Resident Representative Office of the Association and on the electronic resource of the Association; with specification of the functions of the President and the Vice-President of the Association; with the Section "Cooperation" added and the Section "Entry into Force" edited, and put it to vote;

- the representative of the City of Darmstadt, Dierk Molter, who proposed to add German to the working languages of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize with reference to the fact that more than four member cities speak the language;

- the moderator, who agreed to add German to the working languages of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize and put the proposition to vote;

The proposition to add German to the working languages of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize was supported unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the representative of the City of St. Pölten, Ingrid Heihs, who proposed to expand the number of towns included in the Presidium in order to enable vaster engagement of the Association members in its activities.

- the moderator, who proposed to expand the number of towns included in the Presidium to seven and put the proposition to vote;

The proposition to expand the number of towns included in the Presidium of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize was supported unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

The new revision of the Statutes of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize with the German-language amendment was adopted unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who presented two variants of the mock-up for the Association seal, announced the results of the preliminary vote thereon and proposed to approve of the preliminarily-voted-on Variant 2 as the seal of the Association.

Variant 2 of the seal of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize was approved unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who explained the need to vote on the decision to create the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine located in Kharkiv and asked to support the decision;

- the representative of the City of Lublin, Mr. Krzysztof Stanovsky, who asked to clarify if the Resident Representative Office was intended as a new creation or as part of the Association;

- the moderator, who explained that the Resident Representative Office is designed as a subdivision of the Association acting in the interests and name thereof;

- the representative of the City of Częstochowa, Mr. Mr. Andrzej Szewiński, who asked to clarify the legal status of the Resident Representative Office;

- the moderator, who explained that the Resident Representative Office was designed as a non-legal entity and that it shall act in the name and under the authority of the Association without gaining the legal entity status.

- the representative of the City of Altötting, Mr. Herbert Hofauer, who called on to the participants to support the initiative to create the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine located in Kharkiv, and added that much work had been done towards this initiative;

- the moderator, who put to vote the decision to create the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine located in Kharkiv.

The decision to create the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine located in Kharkiv was taken unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who presented the draft Provision on the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine and put it to vote for adoption by the General Assembly.

The Provision on the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine was adopted unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who presented the candidature of the First Vice-Mayor of Kharkiv, Mr. Ihor Terekhov, for the position of the Head of the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine and proposed to approve this candidature;

- the secretary of the General Assembly, who read the nomination from the President of the Association, Mayor of Kharkiv, Gennadiy Kernes, and the background information about the candidate for the position of the Head of the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine, Mr. Ihor Terekhov;

- the moderator, who put to vote the candidature of the First Vice-Mayor of Kharkiv, Mr. Ihor Terekhov, for the position of the Head of the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine located in Kharkiv.

The candidature of the First Vice-Mayor of Kharkiv, Mr. Ihor Terekhov, for the position of the Head of the Resident Representative Office of the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize in Ukraine located in Kharkiv was approved unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the representative of the City of St. Pölten, Ingrid Heihs, who filed a request to include St. Pölten in the Presidium of the Association referring to the city's previous active participation therein and Article 10 of the newly adopted Statutes, which provides for up to seven other Association member cities approved by the General Assembly of the Association;

- the moderator, who put to vote the request of St. Pölten to be included in the Presidium of the Association.

The request of the City of St. Pölten to be included in the Presidium of the Association was approved unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the representative of the City of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ruslan Martsinkiv, who filed a request to include Ivano-Frankivsk in the Presidium of the Association referring to Article 10 of the newly adopted Statutes, which provides for up to seven other Association member cities approved by the General Assembly of the Association;

- the moderator, who put to vote the request of Ivano-Frankivsk to be included in the Presidium of the Association.

The request of the City of Ivano-Frankivsk to be included in the Presidium of the Association was approved unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who presented the draft Declaration of the General Assembly to be adopted by the General Assembly;

- the secretary of the General Assembly, who read the text of the draft Declaration of the General Assembly;

- the moderator, who put to vote the Declaration of the General Assembly in the proposed revision.

The Declaration of General Assembly was adopted unanimously (by 14 cities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

- the moderator, who summed up the fulfilling of the agenda and thanked the participants for their fruitful work.

General Assembly Moderator

Viktor Rud

General Assembly Secretary

Tatyana Varenko