

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

## **BETWEEN**

**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO**

## **AND**

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

### **ON COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF CIVIL STATUS**

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Albania hereinafter referred to as the "Parties":

Given the excellent existent relations between the two countries;

Acting according to mutual interest, aiming at further improving inter-institutional cooperation in the area of civil status;

Acting according to the principle of equality and mutual interest, pursuant to the domestic legislation, rules and procedures of their own countries;

Have agreed as follows:

#### **Article 1**

##### **Subject**

The subject of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be the realization of cooperation to facilitate the procedures of providing the Civil Status service.

#### **Article 2**

##### **Scope of cooperation**

1. The Parties shall commit to undertake a review of the legal framework and opportunities in order to facilitate cooperation procedures in the area of civil status.
2. The parties shall exchange information on statistics in the area of civil status. (extracts of births, marriages, and deaths occurring in the States Parties to this agreement, Albanian citizens who acquire Kosovo citizenship, Albanian citizens with a residence permit in the Republic of Kosovo and vice versa).
3. The Parties shall cooperate in exchanging the experiences.



4. The Parties shall cooperate in joint training of relevant staff of all levels.
5. The Parties shall enhance the level of communication, contact and mutual visits.
6. The Parties shall organize meetings, symposiums, and conferences in the area of civil status.

## **Article 3**

### **Types of cooperation**

1. Cooperation and exchange of information between the competent authorities of the Parties shall be carried out in accordance with the national legislation of the States.
2. The Parties shall mutually designate liaison officers for maintaining contact.
3. The Parties shall define a single point of contact.
4. The Parties shall meet at least twice a year at the leadership level to exchange inter-institutional experiences.
5. The Parties may undertake consultations and business meetings at all levels to discuss measures for the development of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding.
6. The parties shall exchange information received during the work process and especially regarding labour issues and problems related to the citizens of the two countries, in order to coordinate work and find solutions to relevant issues.

## **Article 4**

### **Exchange of information**

1. The competent authorities of the Parties shall assist each another upon request.
2. Requests for assistance and their responses shall be provided in writing. In case of emergency, requests can be sent orally, followed promptly by a written confirmation within 24 hours, using technical means of sending data.

The request for information shall contain:

- the name of the requesting competent authority and the requested competent authority;
  - statement of the substance of the case and the reasoning thereof, as well as information on its execution.
3. Information and documents received in accordance with the terms of this Article shall not be sent to a third party without the prior written consent of the sending party.
  4. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, either Party may reject, in whole or in part, a request for assistance if the Party considers that its fulfilment could threaten the security of personal data, confidential information or other vital and security interests, or violate its obligations deriving from state legislation or international agreements. In this case, the requested party shall promptly notify the requesting Party of the refusal and provide information or explain its reasons.
  5. Requests between Parties must be reviewed as soon as possible within 24 hours in cases where information can be provided, with a maximum response time of 45 days for complex cases.
  6. In accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding, the exchange of restricted information shall be performed in accordance with the state legislation of each Party.
  7. The data submitted should be used exclusively for the purposes for which they were provided.



## **Article 5**

### **Cooperation regarding trainings**

1. The Parties shall organize trainings, conferences, and joint business meetings in the area of civil status. The Parties must organize business meetings, at least once a year.
2. The Parties shall admit the other Party's staff to the training programs delivered in the area of civil status.
3. The Parties shall exchange bylaws, procedures, regulations, instructions, and written standards related to the provision of recovery of civil status.
4. The Parties may exchange experts and designated officers for training, instruction, professional assistance, administrative assistance, and technical assistance in a timely manner related to the area of civil status.

## **Article 6**

### **Competent authorities**

1. The competent authorities of the Parties for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be as follows:

For Kosovo;

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Civil Registration Agency – CRA

For Albania;

Ministry of Interior

## **Article 7**

### **Costs**

1. All costs related to the performance of activities within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be borne by the Parties themselves.

## Article 8

### Amendments

1. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended and supplemented at any time at the Parties' consent through a verbal note sent through diplomatic channels.

## Article 9

### Dispute resolution

1. Any dispute in the interpretation and application of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved between the Parties by mutual understanding.
2. For the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, the competent authorities may, as appropriate, establish working groups.

## Article 10

### Entry into force and termination

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the day of its signing by the Parties.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be valid for an indefinite period. Either Party may notify the other Party at any time in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate this agreement 3 month before the expiry of the time limit.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be signed on 20.06.2021 in Prishtina, in two original copies each in Albanian, Serbian and English, with all texts being equally authentic and equally equivalent.

In case of any disputes over the interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Internal Affairs of  
Republic of Kosovo

**Xhelal SYEÇLA**

For the Ministry of Interior of the  
Republic of Albania

**Bledar ÇUÇI**