

## Memorandum in favour of the creation of a European College of local self-government and territorial innovation

*Considering that*

- *the local level is particularly fertile in terms of public service innovations, responding to sustainable development objectives,*
- *the active participation of citizens in the future organisation of their communities and vicinities keeps democracy alive and active,*
- *the exchanges of good practices at the European level must be encouraged between local authorities as well as between local authorities and civil society,*
- *local governments have an important role to play in bringing the European Union, its member states and their citizens together,*
- *life-long learning, innovation, research, the mobility of students and professionals, partnerships between universities and local authorities, contribute to the development of European citizenship.*

The signatories of this memorandum express their support for the **European College of local self-government and territorial innovation** project and the creation of an institution for advanced learning and research particularly dedicated to territorial management, especially semi-urban and rural areas, within a European perspective, carried out by the International Conference Centre of Cluny and coordinated by Jean-Luc Delpuch, President of the Community of Communes of Clunisois.

This institution will offer higher education and life-long learning programmes; it will encourage local level awareness within the framework of European construction, innovation and experimentation in territorial management in a strong interdisciplinary, participatory and European spirit. Sharing of best practices, experiences of local self-government, around the notions of good governance, social cohesion and subsidiarity, all so crucial for Europe, will be highlighted.

To take into account the wealth and diversity of the regions of Europe, the signatories approve the idea that the College will develop as a network, moving out from two initial sites: the first, principal, in Cluny (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, France), the second, complementary, in central Europe.

The signatories declare themselves able and willing to sponsor the launch of the European College of Cluny and to commit themselves to promoting and presenting the project to both public and private partners, potentially capable of providing financial and material support for the installation of the college and its first years of existence.

### **FIRST SIGNATURES:**

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