



## **CHARTER OF THE ECONOMIC NETWORK OF THE THREE SEAS REGIONS**

The Signatories to the Lublin Declaration on establishment of the Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions, signed in Lublin on 29 June 2021,

considering the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities, adopted in Madrid on 21 May 1980,

and

by establishing the Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions, with its seat in Lublin (operating also under the abbreviated name of the Network of the Three Seas Regions),

hereby adopt the Charter of the Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions, which shall read as follows:

### **Chapter I NAME, SEAT AND LOGO**

#### **§ 1**

1. The Polish name of the Network (hereinafter referred to as the “Network”) is: Sieć Gospodarcza Regionów Trójmorza, and the English name is: Economic Network of the Three Seas Regions. The abbreviated name in English is: Network of the Three Seas Regions.
2. The seat of the Network shall be Lublin (Republic of Poland).

3. The Network shall use the logo consistent with the adopted specimen that is subject to legal protection (Appendix hereto).

## **Chapter II.**

### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE NETWORK**

#### **§ 2**

The Founding Members of the Network are the signatories to the Lublin Declaration:

- 1) Lubelskie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Lublin;
- 2) Mazowieckie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Warsaw;
- 3) Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Rzeszów;
- 4) Podlaskie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Białystok;
- 5) Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship (Republic of Poland) with its seat in Kielce;
- 6) Alytus Region Development Council (Republic of Lithuania) with its seat in Alytus;
- 7) Marijampole Region Development Council (Republic of Lithuania) with its seat in Marijampole;
- 8) Panevėžys Regional Development Council (Republic of Lithuania) with its seat in Panevėžys;
- 9) Calarasi County (Romania) with seat in Calarasi;
- 10) Caraş-Severin County (Romania) with its seat in Reşişa;
- 11) Dolj County (Romania) with its seat in Craiova;
- 12) Maramureş County (Romania) with its seat in Baia Mare;
- 13) Timiş County (Romania) with its seat in Timişoara ;
- 14) Prešov Self-Governing Region (the Slovak Republic) with its seat in Prešov;
- 15) Hajdú-Bihar County (Hungary) with its seat in Debrecen.

#### **§ 3**

1. Other entities may also become members of the Network subject to satisfying the requirements stipulated in the Madrid Convention, provided that:
  - 1) Regular Members of the Network may be local and regional authorities operating in the countries belonging to the Three Seas Initiative, those are Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia,
  - 2) entities representing business institutions, universities, etc. may become Associated Partners of the Network,

- 3) entities operating in other countries than those belonging to the Three Seas Initiative, especially those bordering such countries, may become Associated Partners of the Network.
2. The decision on admitting a new member shall be taken upon its written request. The decision shall be taken subject to obtaining written consent from more than half of all the Regular Members of the Network.
3. All subsequently admitted Regular Members of the Network, as well as Associated Partners shall accept the provisions of the Agreement and Charter upon joining the Network.

#### **§ 4**

1. Membership of the Network shall expire when:
  - 1) the Network is dissolved;
  - 2) the member leaves the Network upon its written notification;
  - 3) the member is excluded from the Network.
2. Decisions on excluding members shall be taken by the Members of the Network subject to obtaining written consent from at least two-thirds of all Regular Members of the Network.

### **Chapter III.**

#### **TERRITORIAL RANGE AND DURATION**

#### **§ 5**

The territory within which the Network shall conduct its activities covers:

- 1) in the Republic of Poland: Lubelskie Voivodeship, Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Podlaskie Voivodeship, Mazowieckie Voivodeship and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship,
- 2) in the Republic of Lithuania: Alytus, Marijampole and Panevėžys Regions,
- 3) in Romania: Calarasi, Caraş-Severin, Dolj, Maramureş and Timiş Counties,
- 4) in the Slovak Republic: Prešov Self-Governing Region,
- 5) in Hungary: Hajdú-Bihar County,
- 6) and areas of local and regional authorities subsequently joining the Network as its Regular Members as well as Associate Partners of the Network.

#### **§ 6**

The Network is established for an indefinite period.

## **Chapter IV.**

### **LEGAL CHARACTER AND OBJECTIVE OF THE NETWORK**

#### **§ 7**

The Network is a body without legal personality. It is a voluntary group of cooperating local and regional authorities and other partners.

#### **§ 8**

The objective of the Network is to pursue partnership cooperation in the field of sustainable and responsible development of the regions of the Three Seas Initiative countries, and in particular: development, facilitation and promotion of cross-border and international cooperation with the aim of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the area of the Network's activities in the Three Seas Initiative countries.

## **Chapter V.**

### **TASKS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE NETWORK**

#### **§ 9**

1. The objective set out in § 8 shall be implemented through:
  - 1) reducing the infrastructure gap in Central and Eastern Europe in relation to Western Europe;
  - 2) developing inter-regional cooperation as a local and regional government component of the Three Seas Initiative;
  - 3) providing a development impulse to local and regional governments through cooperation and building sustainable links in the fields of infrastructure, transport, digitalisation and innovation,
  - 4) creating tools for more effective use of European Funds, national resources and the Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund;
  - 5) participating in the dynamic process of economic recovery and extension of infrastructure connecting the Three Seas Initiative regions, such as Via Carpatia, Rail Baltica, Via Baltica, Rail-2-Sea, and new projects including Rail Carpatia;
  - 6) supporting entrepreneurship, in particular by fostering the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and international trade;
  - 7) promoting development and mutual exchange in the fields of culture, the arts, tourism and others.

2. The tasks set out in Par. 1 shall be implemented by means of territorial cooperation projects co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the Just Transition Fund, as well as projects without the EU financial contribution.
3. The Network shall operate based on the principle that all tasks fall within the competence of each Member under its national law.

## **Chapter VI.**

### **NETWORK BODIES**

#### **§ 10**

The Network bodies shall include:

- 1) the Assembly,
- 2) the Network Office, and
- 3) the Board of Coordinators.

#### **§ 11**

1. The Assembly shall be the highest body of the Network. It shall be composed of representatives of the 15 Founding Members and representatives of other regular members joining the Network. Each of the regular members shall be represented in the Assembly by its statutory body or a person duly authorised.
2. The Assembly shall:
  - 1) approve amendments to the Agreement and Charter of the Network, subject to obtaining written consent from at least two-thirds of all Regular Network Members;
  - 2) decide to admit a new member to the Network, subject to obtaining written consent from more than half of all Regular Members of the Network;
  - 3) decide to exclude a member from the Network, subject to obtaining written consent from at least two-thirds of all Regular Members of the Network;
  - 4) decide on establishing thematic sections subject to obtaining written consent from more than half of all Regular Members of the Network;
  - 5) decide on the dissolution of the Network subject to obtaining written consent from at least two-thirds of all Regular Members of the Network.

## **§ 12**

1. The Lubelskie Voivodeship, as the initiator of the Network, shall assume the duty of running the Network Office based in Lublin.
2. The Network Office shall act as the permanent secretariat of the Network.

## **§ 13**

1. Each member of the Network shall appoint its representative to the Board of Coordinators.
2. Each member of the Network may appoint additional representatives to individual thematic sections to be established within the Network.

## **§ 14**

1. The Board of Coordinators shall:
  - 1) meet at least once a year (either in a stationary form or online),
  - 2) remain in contact with the Network Office, passing information that is relevant for the functioning of the Network,
  - 3) request that a member be excluded from the Network in the event of gross violations of the Agreement and the Network Charter.
2. Members of the Board of Coordinators have the right to inspect all documents concerning the Network's activities.

## **§ 15**

A person shall cease to act as a member of the Board of Coordinators when:

- 1) he/she is recalled from that function,
- 2) the Network is dissolved,
- 3) he/she withdraws from that function,
- 4) he/she dies or is considered to have died.

## **Chapter VII. THEMATIC SECTIONS**

## **§ 16**

1. The Assembly may establish thematic sections when necessary.
2. Sections shall consist of representatives of members and external experts.

3. Due to the leading role of the economic development of the Network's signatories, as highlighted in the Lublin Declaration, the first of such sections to be created shall be the Economic Section.
4. The number of sections that may be established is unlimited.

### **Chapter VIII.**

#### **GOVERNING LAW, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND FINANCE**

##### **§ 17**

Should any dispute arise between the Network members, these members undertake to resolve it by way of amicable agreement.

##### **§ 18**

1. Participation in the Network shall not entail imposing any mutual financial obligations on the Parties.
2. The Lubelskie Voivodeship, while assuming the duty of running the Network Office, shall at the same time finance its activities.
3. The implementation of projects within the Network shall require concluding separate specific agreements.

### **Chapter IX.**

#### **WORKING LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION**

##### **§ 19**

1. The Network's working language shall be the English language.
2. Any correspondence and documents exchanged within the Network shall be drawn up in English.
3. In the event of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the documents drawn up in several languages, the English version shall be considered prevalent.

### **Chapter X.**

#### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

##### **§ 20**

1. The Charter was drawn up in Lublin, on ....., in 15 counterparts, each in the Polish, Lithuanian, Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian and English language.

2. The Charter of the Network of the Three Seas Regions shall enter into force on the day of its signing, but not earlier than upon approval by the competent authorities of the Network's members.