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## **MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

### **for the improvement of environment for the development of the social economy in Montenegro**

Taking into account current socio-economic situation in Montenegro and the need to find new answers to the social challenges;

Recognizing the social economy as one of the solutions as well as the path for integration of many marginalized social groups;

At the same time, respecting the autonomy of the work of state institutions, on the one hand and civil society organizations, on the other;

Relying on the Strasbourg Declaration and the Roman strategy, as well as the Belgrade Declaration for the development of social entrepreneurship, which recognized the power and flexibility of the social economy in combating social and economic problems;

Knowing that the Regional Development Strategy of Montenegro for the period 2014-2020 is harmonized with strategic documents at a higher level such as the Europe 2020 and Strategy for South Eastern Europe 2020, which aspire to favourable conditions for the development of the social economy;

The signatories of this MEMORANDUM agree to cooperate in order to:

1. Promote the social economy;
2. Strengthen the capacities of the organizations involved in the social economy;
3. Improve of normative framework;

Because of the need for realization the objectives of Memorandum, signatories have defined the following activities in their future work:

1. Analysis of the current situation in the area of social economy in Montenegro;
2. Exchange of information between the signatories of the Memorandum;
3. Lobbying towards state institutions for the creation of better conditions for development of the social economy;
4. Development of joint projects;
5. Development of services and their providing to members;

The signatories of the Memorandum have also defined steps / strategy which must be taken in order to create conditions for the development of the social economy in Montenegro:

1. Creation of National Strategy for the development of the social economy;

2. Establishment of a national office for the development and the promotion of social economy;
3. Establishment of financial mechanisms for the support to social entrepreneurs;
4. Unifying existing measures and the creation of new ones that will support the actors of the social economy;
5. Normatively regulate the area of social economy; starting from the Company Law, which would be amendment with the model of „cooperatives - democratically managed enterprise“, as one of the possible forms for performing economic activity;

Podgorica, 22.12.2015.