



# **FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT**

**between Municipalities for the**

**NETWORK OF EUROPEAN  
MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS**

*Ventotene, 29 August 2021*



**WHEREAS**, *the Twinning among Municipalities and the Friendship Agreement that anticipate them establish permanent bonds of fraternity and cooperation in solidarity, based on a solemn act signed by the Mayors on behalf of their citizens, who are called to be the real protagonists of exchanges in every level and in many action sectors: the School, the Associations, the Elderly, the economic and productive activities, the Volunteering, the civil protection, the Environment, the Culture, the Sport, the folk traditions, the Migration and Immigration and etc...*

**CONSIDERING** *that the Municipalities of the European islands of the Mediterranean Sea, although geographically distant, are united by the sea, in which they are located, and by the will to:*  
*recognize themselves in their common position within the European Union;*  
*share problems and possible solutions concerning some issues about their insular distinctiveness;*  
*underline remember and deepen the reasons and living conditions of their own respective Communities and also People and Cultures that were in touch with them;*  
*qualify the offering to people that choose the islands a places for living, studying, researching and tourism;*  
*constitute reference's places to defend the values of Democracy, World Peace, Participation and Environmental sustainability*

**CONSIDERING** *that, for these reasons, our Administrations are aware of the opportunity to develop a fruitful cooperation on some priority themes such as:*

- ✓ *the protection and the enhancement of the historical, environmental, cultural, social, faunal and plant life heritage;*
- ✓ *the study and research of different animal species and their migratory processes ,*
- ✓ *the accessibility and the mobility to and from the coast and the environmentally friendly inner mobility;*
- ✓ *the management of the migratory process es of all living beings (human beings and animals);*
- ✓ *the management of the cyclic nature of people's presences in the Islands, during the year;*
- ✓ *the Education and the training of young people, even after the Primary school level;*
- ✓ *the Care and the Health, especially of for the older citizens;*
- ✓ *Environmental protection;*
- ✓ *the Digitization and the protection against the digital divide;*
- ✓ *the ability to to know and use the European funds;*
- ✓ *European Education;*
- ✓ *the mastery for using foreign languages;*
- ✓ *the valorization of historical and cultural Routes realized by important persons and/or historical People, who sailed in the Mediterranean Sea and since ancient times;*

**CONSIDERING** *that, the Municipality of Ventotene has already collected the interest of the Municipalities of: Lampedusa and Linosa and Rethymno in order to formalize, putting the issue into perspective, a twinning relationship after having recognized the common interest for the above mentioned themes;*

**RECALLED** *that the Friendship Agreement is the prelude and the condition for exploring the advantages that can be gained, the priority issues on which to cooperate, the methods to be used and the structures to be put in place with a view to consolidating the relationship with the subsequent signing of the TWINNING AGREEMENT.*

## WE MAYORS

*Democratically elected*

*Sure to respond at the deep aspirations and real needs of our islands' population towards whom we have duties and responsibilities, with this **FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT** between Municipalities for the **NETWORK OF EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS** we assume the strong commitment to:*

- ✓ *establish bonds of friendship and exchange information in some fields (eg: geographical, social, cultural, sporting, economic... issues) among our own Communities;*
- ✓ *encourage every initiative towards the education, training, technical, scientific, technical and technological cooperation, environment, culture, agriculture, sea and tourism fields;*
- ✓ *provide to young citizens with the opportunity to confront each other in order to let them broaden their horizons and relate better to social and cultural realities different from theirs;*
- ✓ *compare different economic and tourist issues by seeking forms of interaction, exchange and development;*
- ✓ *do easier the administrative management by comparing the local Government's methods in every Municipality;*
- ✓ *connect our efforts in order to work in synergy for ensuring to ensure the best success of our this agreement because it can be useful and meaningful, to contribute for ensuring Peace and Prosperity throughout the world.*
- ✓ *involve other European Mediterranean Islands that would like to sign this Friendship Agreement;*
- ✓ *carry out a fruitful and shared experience for the useful time in order to agree on the following signature to the **TWINNING AGREEMENT** for consolidating the strong cooperation among the Municipalities, already in action.*
- ✓ *set up a consequent Twinning Committee in each Municipality, open at the meaningful members of the own local Communities.*

*Li, 29 august 2021*

Municipality of Ventotene, Italy

Mayor ..... Signature ..... official stamp

Municipality of Lampedusa e Linosa, Italy

Mayor ..... Signature ..... official stamp

Municipality of Rethymno - Crete Island, Greece

Mayor ..... Signature ..... official stamp

Municipality of .....

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