

CONVENTION

FOR THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN GROUPING FOR TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION PROXIMITY GECT BETWEEN THE BASILICATA REGION AND THE
EPIRUS REGION

THE BASILICATA REGION AND THE EPIRO REGIONE

Agree the following

Art. 1 - Constitution of the EGTC

Art. 2 - Members

Art. 3 - Registered Office

Art. 4 - Territory

Art. 5 - Nature and Goals

Art. 6 - GECT bodies

Art. 7 - Assembly

Art. 8 - President

Art. 9 – The Auditor

Art. 10 - General Manager - Staff

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Art. 12 - Specific projects

Art. 13 - Duration

Art. 14 - Law and application of the Convention

Art. 15 - Procedures to amend the Convention

Art. 16 - Admission of a new member

Art. 17 - Withdrawal of a member

Art. 18 - Disputes

Art. 19 - Winding up

Art. 20 - Final Provisions

– The present Convention and Statutes shall apply on the full respect of the legal systems and legislations that are already in place in each country, as well as pursuant to the international obligations and the Italian and Greek obligations arising from being members of the EU. – With regard to the EU Treaties and that on the Functioning of the European Union signed – in Lisbon in 2009 which has recognised the need to pay attention to economic, social and territorial cohesion, laying the bases for defining new legal instruments and for the upgrading of already existing legal instruments of Community law, able to expand territorial cooperation and to allow the development of a permanent cohesion and cooperation project at the level of local and regional autonomies;

– With regard to Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, of 5 July 2006, relating to European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC [GECT in Italian]), which has introduced the possibility of creating European groupings for cross-border cooperation (GECT), as subjects vested with legal personality and which are entitled to act in the name and on behalf of their members, specifically the regional and local authorities of which they are composed;

– With regard to the new Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013 which integrates and amends Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006;

– With regard to Regulation (EC) no. 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and Council, of 17 December 2013, Regulation (EC) no. 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and Council, of 17 December 2013, and Regulation no. 1303/2013 of the Council, of 17 December 2013;

– Considering law no. 88 of 7 July 2009 of the Italian Republic (Provisions for compliance with the obligations deriving from Italy's membership of the European Community – Community law 2008) and in particular Articles 46, 47 and 48 bearing provisions for the implementation of EC Regulation no. 1082/2006 relating to European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (GECT) (Official Journal of the Republic no. 161 of 14 July 2009);

– Considering the internal legal system and the internal organisation of the regional reality in the EUSAIR AREA (the Basilicata Region – Italy, the Epirus Region – Greece), PROXIMITY GECT is an European Pilot Project, within the Community, in the Adriatic-Ionic macro-region (EUSAIR);

– Considering the very strong historic and cultural links, the common traditions, and the relations between the resident populations (Magna Graecia);

– Considering that in 2014 the new Community programming started, denominated Adriatic-Ionic Macro-Region (EUSAIR).

The purpose of PROXIMITY GECT is to maximise, within the sphere of the Adriatic-Ionic Macro-Region, the potential of the so-called “Blue economy with the use of technological innovation”: competitive and sustainable sea transport; coast and maritime tourism; fishing and aquaculture; a healthier marine environment; safer marine space; sustainable and responsible fishing activities

- recalling the attention of PROXIMITY GECT to common cross-border actions within the sphere of the Community initiative programmes and all the programmes contemplated by the 2014-2020 EU Programming and the future ones;

- recalling the resolution deeds of the Basilicata Region (Decree of the President of the Basilicata Region RCPD [Regional Council Presidential Decree] no. 296 of 5/12/2016 and RCD [Regional Council Decree] no. 877 of 4/8/2017) and the communications approved by the Regions (Basilicata and Epirus) (Letter of the Basilicata Region ref. no. 2516 of 9/1/2017 and Letter of the EPIRUS Region ref. no. 2499/16 of 13/01/2017) which authorise the executive bodies to assess the creation of a European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (PROXIMITY GECT) in the EUSAIR AREA the Basilicata Region (Italy) as well as the Epirus Region (Greece);

- wishing to reinforce trade and cooperation relations within the sphere of common mutual interests, exploiting a renewed cooperation framework within the sphere of technological innovation and of the sustainable development systems linked to tourism, environment and culture;

- pursuing, to this regard, greater joint organisation on common objectives in order to share strategies, the implementation of which may take avail of both the European territorial cooperation programmes and the structural funds and the research and development funds as well as every other action consistent with the purposes of reinforcing the economic and social cohesion of the area, as well as the application of research and development projects that may or may not take avail of Community grants.

Art. 1
Constitution of the EGTC

1) A European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation is hereby founded under the name of "PROXIMITY GECT", pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of 5 July 2006 of the European Parliament and Council, and the new EGTC Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013.

Art. 2
Members

The members of "PROXIMITY GECT" are:

a) The Basilicata Region (Italy); b) The Epirus Region (Greece).

Art. 3
Head Office

The "PROXIMITY GECT has its seat in Italy - Latronico at the GAL named "Agenzia di Sviluppo La Cittadella del Sapere", c/da Calda n° 8 - 85043 Latronico (Potenza) Italy.

Art. 4
Territories

"PROXIMITY GECT" shall carry out its tasks for each Member's territory of competence.

Art. 5
Nature and Goals

"PROXIMITY GECT" is a body with a public legal personality created to facilitate and promote cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional cooperation between its members, for the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion and, in any case, without pursuing profit, as indicated in Article 1, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013.

“PROXIMITY GECT” pursues, in particular, a strategy linked to the Mediterranean, and in particular the EUSAIR strategy in the Adriatic-Ionic Macro Region in order to achieve the following goals:

a) to reinforce the economic, social and cultural links between the respective populations of its members;

b) to act in favour of the development of the territory of its members within the spheres of respective competence, paying special attention to cooperation in the following fields:

- innovation and research;
- training;
- culture and tourism;
- energy;
- climate change and the Covenant of Mayors;
- sustainable mobility and trans-European transport networks;
- health;
- sustainable economy and development;
- the economy and environment of mountain areas;
- social issues;
- the Community information society;
- the promotion of Internet, social networks and film multimedia.
- National cycle paths.

c) to foster greater collaboration in the common participation of European territorial cooperation programmes and the other theme programmes of the European Union;

d) to represent the interests of “PROXIMITY GECT” before the Community and national institutions;

e) to implement other specific territorial cooperation actions within the sphere of common cooperation, regardless of whether they take avail of Community grants.

The initiatives in the health sector shall be brought to the competent Italian and Greek Ministries of Health's attention in a timely manner and in advance so that they can examine and value them, including for the purposes of their compatibility and congruency with the national Laws, programmes, measures and coordination.

Art. 6

GECT bodies

- 1) The bodies of "PROXIMITY GECT" are:
 - a) the Assembly;
 - b) the the President;
 - c) the Director of "PROXIMITY GECT" pursuant to Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) no.1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, of 5 July 2006, and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013;
 - d) The Auditor.

Art. 7

Assembly

The components of the Assembly are chosen by each partner, one for each of them, and by the President

The components are indicated within ninety days following the beginning of each legislative period.

Every member of the Assembly has one vote.

Resolutions of the Assembly shall be adopted if all the members are present; proceedings of the Council shall be unanimously approved.

Resolutions of the Assembly are adopted only if they are on agenda.

For anything not expressly covered by this Statutes, the Assembly may adopt internal regulations to define its own working procedures. The Assembly should decide:

1. The approval of the guidelines in pursuit of the PROXIMITY GECT targets and the pursuit of monitoring activities in order to achieve the result;
2. The PROXIMY GECT resolution for winding up;
3. The admission of a new member;
4. The approval of amendments to the Convention and to the Statute;
5. The adoption of the annual and multi-annual budgets, the amendments to the same and the accounting deeds contemplated by Article 48 of Law no. 88 of 2009 of the

Italian Republic; from the constitution of the PROXIMITY GECT won,t arise any additional burden to public finances. The Administrations of the Basilicata Region and the Epirus will implement the PROXIMITY GECT with the available human, financial and instrumental resources during the existing legislation.

6. The Assembly shall be convened once a year.
7. The Assembly is convened by the President. In any case, the President shall be obliged to convene the Assembly when requested by at least one of the components.

Art. 8

President

1. The President of “PROXIMITY GECT” has the function of guarantor of the technical parteship Italy – Greece of Basilicata Region and Epirus Region. The President remains in office for 7 years and may be re-appointed for another 7 years.
2. The first President of “PROXIMITY GECT“ is chosen by Basilicata Region and Epirus Regio. He/she'll be in the PROXIMITY GECT General Secratariat He/she'll be the one who made all the institutional process according to the assignment entrusted by the D.P.G.R. n. 296 of Basilicata Regione of 05/12/2016, the reconfirmation of the Basilcata Region deliberation n°877 of 04 agosto 2017 and the final delibertion ale n° 341 of 30 aprile 2018 and validated by the Epirus Region.
3. In the case of the “PROXIMITY GECT” President's absence or impediment, his/her place is taken by the substitute indicated pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 16.
4. The President:
 - convokes and chairs the Governing Council meetings, establishing the agenda;
 - validate subject to the authorisation of the Governing Council, agreements and contracts which do not constitute the execution of management activities;
 - monitor instructions for the expenses on the basis of the periodic programmes approved by the Governing Council and controls the revenues of “PROXIMITY GECT”;
 - presents to the General Meeting the annual and multi-annual budgets, their amendments and the other accounting deeds contemplated by Article 48 of Law no. 88 of 2009 of the Italian Republic;
 - proposes to the Governing Council the annual programme of works;

Art. 9

The Auditor

1. The financial, economic and asset management of “PROXIMITY GECT” is subject to the control of an Auditor, which examines the accounting deeds, attaches a report, and, also verifying the maintenance of the financial balance, audits the financial, administrative and asset management. The auditors have right of access to the “PROXIMITY GECT” deeds and documents and may carry out all the verifications the management trend deemed opportune.
2. The “PROXIMITY GECT” Assembly appoints of the Auditor; each “PROXIMITY GECT” member with mandate of the President, designates an auditor chosen from among the members of the Registry of Statutory Auditors.

Art. 10

General Manager - Staff

- 1) “PROXIMITY GECT” appoints a General Manager, and may hire personnel, bearing the costs itself, within the limits and according to the conditions established by the organisational regulations referred to under Article 25. “PROXIMITY GECT” may take avail of personnel made available by its members, with respect for the relative laws in force. The General Manager remains in office for 7 years and may be re-appointed for another 7 years.
- 2) The General Manager represents the Proximity Gect and acts on behalf of Proximity Gect as provided by the art.10, paragraph 1, letter b of the EC Regulation CE 1082/2006.

Art. 11

Tasks

To achieve its goals, “PROXIMITY GECT” performs the following tasks, without prejudice to the provisions established under Article 7, paragraphs 2 and 4, of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and of the amendments introduced by Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013:

- the definition and implementation of territorial cooperation projects within the spheres of competence of the members in the sectors of common interest, with or without Community grants; - the promotion of the interests of “PROXIMITY GECT” with state, Community and international institutions within the sphere of the territorial cooperation, within the limits and in the forms contemplated by the laws in force;
- adhesion to bodies, associations and networks conforming to the territorial cooperation goals of “PROXIMITY GECT” in respect of the internal law by which it is disciplined and the national law of each of the States of its members (ITALY – GREECE); - the management of

operational programmes within the sphere of the European territorial cooperation, in respect of the conditions established by European Union law, the internal law by which it is disciplined and the national law of each of the States of its members; - the start-up of every other action for “Research and Technological Innovation” and for “Integrated Prevention in Mountainous Areas” as programmed in the future "Agenda for the mountainous regions of the EU" (contemplated in the Resolution of the European Parliament of 10 May 2016 on the cohesion policy in the mountain regions of the EU (2015/2279(INI)) “ which can contribute to the achievement of its goals of territorial cooperation for the reinforcement of economic, social and territorial cohesion, in respect of European Union law, the internal law by which it is disciplined and the national law of each of the States of its members.

The “PROXIMTY GECT” deals with the present EU strategies (2014 – 2020) (2021 – 2027) and the future ones in Brussels, within the Community Institutions and, in particular, within Italian and Greek Permanent Representations-for the following issues:

- EUSAIR (EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN REGION) is a microregion adopted by the European Commission in 2014 - AGENDA FOR THE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF THE EU" : - SUSTAINABLE INTERMODALITY (NATIONAL CYCLE PATHS SYSTEM) AND INTERMODALITY BY SECONDARY AND TOURISTIC RAIL AND RIVER TRANSPORT. - INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE GREEK AND ITALIAN INTERNAL AND WIDESPREAD TERRITORY (PRODUCT’S CLUB)

Without prejudice to the tasks outlined under paragraph 1, the “PROXIMITY GECT” members may decide unanimously to assign to one of its members the execution of the “PROXIMITY GECT” tasks.

Art. 12

Specific projects and duties

Within the sphere of the cooperation contemplated under Article 5, paragraph 2, letter b) and pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1, letter a) of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013 the PROXIMITY GECT programmes and project in the EUSAIR area are developed within the sphere of four main pillars:

- a) “BLUE GROWTH”: DEVELOPMENT IN FISHING AND AQUACULTURE; GOVERNANCE OF THE MARITIME SERVICES AND THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT.
- b) CONNECT THE REGION: TRANSPORT AND ENERGY NETWORK;
- c) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY;
- d) SUSTAINABLE TOURISM.

“PROXIMITY GECT” shall pursue the following objectives:

- innovation, research and development for the infrastructural development of the territories in the two countries of “PROXIMITY GECT” (Italy, Greece);
- culture: the digitalisation of the cultural systems (exhibitions - cooperation between museums) and an integrated system of exploiting the cultural and environmental heritage;
- energy: the promotion of alternative energy sources, and the integrated management of the various systems; - health: joint prevention campaigns and initiatives in the health sector;
- research and innovation: the creation and development of knowledge and excellence networks;
- economy: the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in particular, of the development of the SME, of craft businesses, of tourism of trade and of agriculture;
- the economy and environment of mountain areas: the organisation of events on climate, the recording of geological events and joint protection and management of the natural resources;
- training: the promotion of contacts between students, the reinforcement of language teaching and collaboration for the training of teaching staff;
- “PRODUCT CLUB” SYSTEM MANAGMENT IN THE EUSAIR AREA PARTICULARLY IN THE POLLINO NATIONAL PARK (SLOW INTERMODALITY – NATIONAL CYCLE PATH SYSTEM – CULTURE - ENVIRONMENT – TOURISM).

THE EPIRUS REGION PRIORITY :

1. STANDARDISATION, CERTIFICATION AND BRAND OF LOCAL PRODUCE;
2. PROMOTION OF MONASTERIES' PRODUCTS;
3. PROMOTION OF HEALTH SERVICES;
4. DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE INDISTRY;
5. PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING OF TZOUMERKA NATIONAL PARK, PERISTERI, GORGE OF ARACHTHOS AND NORTHERN PINDO NATIONAL PARK;
6. PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING VIKOS-AOOSGEOPARK, LISTED IN THE WORLD NETWORK OF GEOPARKS;
7. PROMOTION OF THERMAL TOURISM AND EXPLOITATION OF THERMAL RESOURCES;
8. HEALTH TOURISM;
9. NETWORKING OF LEISURE BOATING ROUTES;
10. FISHERMAN'S SHELTERS;
11. NETWORKING OF UNDERWATER PARKS;

12. NETWORKING OF THE EPIRUS REGION FOOTPATHS;
13. IMPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES BASED UPON CULTURAL HERITAGE;
14. EPIRUS CULTURAL ROUTE ANCIENT THEATRES (STRATEGIC INTEGRATED SPATIAL INVESTMENT);
15. NETWORKING OF CYCLE PATHS AND ROUTES FOR MOTORCYCLES AND RV;
16. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT;
17. ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE;
18. COASTAL EROSION;
19. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS ON THE COASTS;
20. REDUCTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS BUILDING OF ADRIATIC-IONIAN HIGHWAY "BLUE CORRIDOR" (CORE TEN-T)
21. PROMOTION OF IGOUMENITSA LOGISTIC CENTRE

Art. 13

Duration

"PROXIMITY GECT" will remain in existence for an undetermined term. Without prejudice to the possibility of the early withdrawal of one or more members in accordance with the provisions of Article 12.

Art. 14

Law and the application of the Convention

The PROXIMITY GECT will be administered in accordance with the European Union Law. The applicable law is the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 subsequently amended and supplemented on 17 December 2013 by the Regulation (EC) n. 1302/2013. In line with the rules of Article 8 paragraph 2 letters e), g) and h) of the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006, the applicable law, with regard to the interpretation and the application of the Convention and Statutes where the Proximity Gect's bodies operate, is the Italian one.

As established by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and the integration of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013, the management and correct use of public funds on the part of "PROXIMITY GECT" is controlled by the state authorities identified under Article 47, paragraph 5, of Law no. 88 of the Italian Republic of 7 July 2009.

The PROXIMITY GECT" staff is recruited by public selection and in particular:

O COMMAND FROM OTHER PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION O PUBLIC SELECTION WITH WRITTEN AND ORAL TESTS O TRANSFER FROM OTHER PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS O SELECTION OF PROFESSIONALS ON THE BASIS OF CURRICULA AND BY MEANS OF WRITTEN AND/OR ORAL EXAMS.

With reference to the Italian legislation (article 48 of the Law n. 88 of 2009) the constitution of the PROXIMITY GECT won't put any new and further burdens on the public finances. If the Basilicata Region and the Epirus choose to grant programming and planning functions they will implement the PROXIMITY GECT with the available human, financial and instrumental resources during the existing legislation.

With reference to the art.2 letter k) of the Regulation n.1082/2006, to manage COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES, PROXIMITY GECT applies the rules of European Union Community Programmes 2014 – 2020 and the future ones referring to the personnel in charge and to financial limits laid down with regard to these matters as every Community Programme has different rules and specific method of applicability of rules for the use of personnel.

With reference to the article 2 letter k) of the Regulation n.1082/2006, to manage NATIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES (ITALIAN), PROXIMITY GECT applies the rules of recruitment used by the Italian Public Administration, following the Article 9 of The Italian Constitution which states that in the Public Administration recruitment is made by means of a competitive examination, except in the cases defined by law.

This principle is stated in the Legislative decree no. 165 of 30 March 2001, particularly in the article 35 which states that in the Public Administration recruitment is made by individual employment contract.

Art. 15

Convention amendment procedure

Any amendment to the Convention is approved unanimously by the "PROXIMITY GECT" Assembly.

Any substantial amendment to the Convention is approved by the procedure contemplated for its first undersigning and for the institution of "PROXIMITY GECT" by Article 4, paragraph 6, of Regulation EC no. 1082/2006 and by the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013.

Art. 16

Admission of a new member

The Council decides unanimously on the admission of new members to "PROXIMITY GECT", belonging to the categories identified under Article 3 of Regulation EC no. 1082/2006 and by amendments and integrations to Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013.

The request for admission as a new member is presented to the President of "PROXIMITY GECT" by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or another equivalent method. The admission of a new member does not involve amendment to the "PROXIMITY GECT" Convention or Statute. The "PROXIMITY GECT" validate an attachment to the Statutes and to the Convention certifying the inclusion of anew member.

Art. 17

Withdrawal of a member

Unless the withdrawal of a member represents a condition for the winding up of "PROXIMITY GECT", in which case the provisions of Article 14 are applied, each member is entitled to withdraw by communication to the "PROXIMITY GECT"

President by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt with notice of at least six months before the end of the financial period in progress at that moment.

Members who have exercised the right to withdraw from "PROXIMITY GECT" are responsible for the actions deriving from the activities of "PROXIMITY GECT" carried out when they were still members, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006.

The member that withdraws is required to cover the payables regarding its own preceding financial commitments, within the financing of "PROXIMITY GECT" itself.

The withdrawal of a member involves amendment of the Convention and of the Statute.

The resigning member shall remain bound in relation to the obligations arising from the activities carried out during his presence in the PROXIMITY GECT, whatever the Body producing those obligations is.

Art. 18

Disputes

Disputes resulting from the application of this Convention are settled by the jurisdictional bodies of the Member State in which the territorially competent "PROXIMITY GECT" office is located (Italy – Latronico).

Art. 19

Winding up

The winding up of "PROXIMITY GECT" is unanimously resolved by the Council.

Subsequent to the winding up, for the purposes of the liquidation, the legislation of the State in which "PROXIMITY GECT" has its registered office, pursuant to Article 12, paragraph 1,

of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and Regulation (EC) 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013, will apply.

The surplus management funds resulting from the liquidation are allocated to the members in proportion to their annual funding quotas.

Whenever the assets of PROXIMITY GECT are insufficient to cover its passivity, its Members shall be liable for the GECT's debts whatever their nature.

In the PROXIMITY GECT there are no shares of financial contribution from each Region (BASILICATA AND EPHIRUS REGION) and therefore the members shall be responsible for the totality of any possible passivity.

The PROXIMITY GECT's members are to be liable, after they have ceased to be members of PROXIMITY GECT for obligations arising out of activities of the PROXIMITY GECT during their membership.

PROXIMITY GECT's members mutually recognize to Proximity Gect's Director the financial control of funds (of projects administered at National or Community level) and possible public funding.

Art. 20

Final provisions

- 1) This Convention and the Statute are drawn up in Italian, Greek, and English.
- 2) The texts which shall be considered authentic are those in Italian, Greek, and English and they are stipulated as public deeds pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, of 5 July 2006, Article 46, paragraph 4 of Law no. 88 of the Italian Republic, of 7 July 2009.
- 3) The "PROXIMITY GECT" Statute is an integral part of this Convention.
- 4) This convention is signed in Italian Greek and English . Every member holds two copies.

Signed in... .. on.....

**STATUTE EUROPEAN GROUPING
FOR TERRITORIAL COOPERATION
“PROXIMITY GECT”**

Preamble

Considering the very close historic and cultural links, the common traditions, the relations between the resident populations in the EUSAIR Adriatic-Ionic area and the need to develop strategies and actions for the joint management of the territory in sectors of common interest, “PROXIMITY GECT” has the following goals:

- to reinforce trade and cooperation relations within the sphere of common mutual interests, exploiting a renewed cooperation framework;
- to improve joint organisation for common objectives in order to share strategies, the implementation of which may take avail of both the European territorial cooperation programmes and the structural funds, as well as every other action consistent with the purposes of reinforcing the economic and social cohesion of the area, which may or may not take avail of Community grants.
- to structure project activities according to an innovation and research technology which results in real sustainable development in the territories of the “PROXIMITY GECT”.

With regard to:

- Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of 5 July 2006 of the European Parliament and Council and Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013, relating to European groupings for territorial cooperation;
- Law no. 88 of 7 July 2009 of the Italian Republic concerning the provisions for compliance with the obligations deriving from Italy's membership of the European Community – Community law 2008, published in the Official Journal of the Republic no. 161 of 14 July 2009;

The “PROXIMITY GECT” members agree as follows:

Art. 1 - Constitution of the EGTC

Art. 2 - Members

Art. 3 - Registered Office

Art. 4 - Territory

- Art. 5 - Nature and Goals
- Art. 6 - Tasks
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- Art. 12 - Disputes
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- Art. 14 - Languages
- Art. 15 - The EGTC bodies
- Art. 16 - Assembly
- Art. 17 - President Art.
- Art 18- Auditor Art.
- Art 19 - Director General and the Staff
- Art. 20 - Resources of the GECT
- Art. 21 - Organisation and functioning regulations and accounting regulations
- Art. 22- Final provision
- Art. 23 - Statute amendment procedure

Art. 1

Constitution of the EGTC

1) A European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation "PROXIMITY GECT" is founded under the name of "PROXIMITY GECT", pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, of 5 July 2006, the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013 and the laws of the Italian Republic in which "PROXIMITY GECT" has its registered office.

Art. 2

Members

The members of “PROXIMITY GECT” are: a) The Basilicata Region (Italy); b) The Epirus Region (Greece). Art. 3 Head Office

Art. 3

Head Office

The “PROXIMITY GECT has its seat in Italy - Latronico at the GAL named “Agenzia di Sviluppo La Cittadella del Sapere”, c/da Calda n° 8 - 85043 Latronico (Potenza) Italy.

Art. 4

Territory

“PROXIMITY GECT” shall carry out its tasks for each Member’s territory of competence.

Art. 5

Nature and Goals

“PROXIMITY GECT” is a body with a public legal personality created to facilitate and promote cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional cooperation between its members, for the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion and, in any case, without pursuing profit, as indicated in Article 1, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013.

“PROXIMITY GECT” – also sharing the spirit and the purposes of the Adriaticlonic Macro-Region, pursues in particular the following goals:

- a) to reinforce the economic, social and cultural links between the respective populations of its members;
- b) to act in favour of the sustainable development of the territory of its members within the spheres of respective competence, paying special attention to cooperation in the following fields:
- c) the representation of the interests of “PROXIMITY GECT” before the national, Community and international institutions;

d) the implementation of other specific territorial cooperation actions within the sphere of common cooperation, regardless of whether they take avail of Community grants.

Art. 6

Tasks

To achieve its goals, "PROXIMITY GECT" performs the following tasks, without prejudice to the provisions established under Article 7, paragraphs 2 and 4, of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013:

- a) the definition and implementation of territorial cooperation projects within the spheres of competence of the members in the sectors of common interest, with or without Community grants;
- b) the promotion of the interests of "PROXIMITY GECT" with state and European institutions within the sphere of territorial cooperation, within the limits and in the forms contemplated by the laws in force;
- c) adhesion to bodies, associations and networks conforming to the territorial cooperation goals of "PROXIMITY GECT" in respect of the internal law by which it is disciplined and the national law of each of the States of its members;
- d) the management of operational programmes within the sphere of European territorial cooperation, in respect of the conditions established by European Union law, the internal law by which it is disciplined and the national law of each of the States of its members;
- e) the start-up of every other action that can contribute to achieving its goals of territorial cooperation for the reinforcement of economic, social and territorial cohesion, with respect of the European law, of the internal law by which it is disciplined and the national law of each of the States of its members.
- f) The members may also entrust to PROXIMITY GECT the promotion and implementation of operations included within the sphere of programmes and projects financed by the Underutilised Areas Fund contemplated by Article 61 of Law no. 289 of 27 December 2002, in implementation of the Italian strategic framework, providing such operations are consistent with the priorities listed under Article 6 of Regulation (CE) no. 1080/2006 and contribute to more effectively achieving the goals established for such programmes or projects. The same holds firm for other funds with similar purposes.

Without prejudice to the tasks outlined under paragraph 1, the "PROXIMITY GECT" members may decide unanimously to assign to one of its members the execution of said tasks.

Art. 7

Strategic projects and duties

Within the sphere of the cooperation contemplated under Article 5, paragraph 2, letter b) and pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1, letter a) of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013

THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF PROXIMITY GECT ARE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE 4 EUSAIR PILLARS.

“PROXIMITY GECT” pursues, in particular, the following projects:

- innovation, research and development for the infrastructural development of the territories in the two countries of “PROXIMITY GECT” (Italy, Greece);
- culture: the digitalisation of the cultural systems (exhibitions - cooperation between museums) and an integrated system of exploiting the cultural and environmental heritage;
- energy: the promotion of alternative energy sources, and the integrated management of the various systems;
- health: joint prevention campaigns and initiatives in the health sector;
- research and innovation: the creation and development of knowledge and excellence networks;
- economy: the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in particular, of the development of the SME, of craft businesses, of tourism of trade and of agriculture;
- the economy and environment of mountain areas: the organisation of climate-related events, Land Registry of geologic events, protection and management of the natural resources.
- training: the promotion of contacts between students, the reinforcement of language teaching and collaboration for the training of teaching staff;
- “PRODUCT CLUB” SYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN THE EUSAIR AREA PARTICULARLY IN THE POLLINO NATIONAL PARK (SLOW INTERMODALITY – NATIONAL CYCLE PATHS SYSTEM – CULTURE - ENVIRONMENT – TOURISM)

THE EPIRUS REGION PRIORITY :

1. STANDARDISATION, CERTIFICATION AND BRAND OF LOCAL PRODUCE;
2. PROMOTION OF MONASTERIES' PRODUCTS;
3. PROMOTION OF HEALTH SERVICES;
4. DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY;

5. PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING OF TZOUMERKA NATIONAL PARK, PERISTERI, GORGE OF ARACHTHOS AND NORTHERN PINDO NATIONAL PARK;
6. PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING VIKOS-AOOSGEOPARK, LISTED IN THE WORLD NETWORK OF GEOPARKS;
7. PROMOTION OF THERMAL TOURISM AND EXPLOITATION OF THERMAL RESOURCES;
8. HEALTH TOURISM;
9. NETWORKING OF LEISURE BOATING ROUTES;
10. FISHERMAN'S SHELTERS;
11. NETWORKING OF UNDERWATER PARKS;
12. NETWORKING OF THE EPIRUS REGION FOOTPATHS;
13. IMPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES BASED UPON CULTURAL HERITAGE;
14. EPIRUS CULTURAL ROUTE ANCIENT THEATRES (STRATEGIC INTEGRATED SPATIAL INVESTMENT);
15. NETWORKING OF CYCLE PATHS AND ROUTES FOR MOTORCYCLES AND RV;
16. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT;
17. ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE;
18. COASTAL EROSION;
19. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS ON THE COASTS;
20. REDUCTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS BUILDING OF ADRIATIC-IONIAN HIGHWAY "BLUE CORRIDOR" (CORE TEN-T)
21. PROMOTION OF IGOUMENITSA LOGISTIC CENTRE

Art. 8

Duration

"PROXIMITY GECT" will remain in existence for an undetermined term. Without prejudice to the possibility of the early withdrawal of one or more members in accordance with the provisions of Article 12.

Art. 9

Law and the application of the Convention

- 1) The PROXIMITY GECT will be administered in accordance with the European Union Law. The applicable law is the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 subsequently amended and supplemented on 17 December 2013 by the Regulation (EC) n. 1302/2013.
- 2) As specified by the Art. 6 of the Regulation (EC) n. 1082/2006 (EC) and the incorporation of Regulation n° 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013, the management control and the proper use of public funds by the “PROXIMITY GECT” is carried out by the State authority identified by the 47, paragraph 5, Italian Decree Law n. 88 of 7th July 2009.
- 3) In line with the rules of Article 8 paragraph 2 letters e), g) and h) of the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006, the applicable law, with regard to the interpretation and the application of these Statutes and the Convention where the Proximity Gect’s bodies operate, is the Italian one.

Art. 10

Admission of a new member

Any substantial amendment of the Statutes and Convention is approved following the same procedures provided for its first subscription and for the establishment of Proximity Gects, by the Article 4 paragraph 6 of the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 subsequently amended and supplemented on 17 December 2013 by the Regulation (EC) n. 1302/2013. The Council decides unanimously on the admission of new members to “PROXIMITY GECT”, belonging to the categories identified under Article 3 of Regulation EC no. 1082/2006 and by amendments and integrations to Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013.

The request for admission as a new member is presented to the President and to the Director of “PROXIMITY GECT” by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or another equivalent method.

The admission of a new member does not involve amendment to the “PROXIMITY GECT” Convention or Statute.

Art. 11

Withdrawal of a member

The withdrawal of a member involves amendment of the Convention and of the Statute as required by Article 4 paragraph 6 of the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 subsequently amended and supplemented on 17 December 2013 by the Regulation (EC) n. 1302/2013.

The resigning member shall remain bound in relation to the obligations arising from the activities carried out during his presence in the PROXIMITY GECT, whatever the body producing those obligations is.

Art. 12

Disputes

Disputes resulting from the application of this Statute are settled by the jurisdictional bodies of the Member State in which the territorially competent "PROXIMITY GECT" office is located, (Italia – Latronico).

Art. 13

Winding up

The winding up of "PROXIMITY GECT" is unanimously resolved by the Council.

Subsequent to the winding up, for the purposes of the liquidation, the legislation of the State in which "PROXIMITY GECT" has its registered office, pursuant to Article 12, paragraph 1, of Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013, will apply. The surplus management funds resulting from the liquidation are allocated to the members in proportion to their annual funding quotas.

Art. 14

Languages

The working languages of “PROXIMITY GECT” are Italian, Greek, and English.

All the deeds and the official documents of “PROXIMITY GECT” are drawn up in Italian, Greek, and English.

Art. 15

Bodies of the GECT

The bodies of “PROXIMITY GECT” are:

- a) the Assembly;
- b) the the President;
- c) the Director of “PROXIMITY GECT” pursuant to Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) no.1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, of 5 July 2006, and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013;
- d) The Auditor.

Art. 16

The Assembly

The components of the Assembly are chosen by each partner, one for each of them, and by the President The components are indicated within ninety days following the beginning of each legislative period. Every member of the Assembly has one vote. Resolutions of the Assembly shall be adopted if all the members are present; proceedings of the Council shall be unanimously approved.

Resolutions of the Assembly are adopted only if they are on agenda. For every matter that is not regulated by the present Statutes, the Assembly may adopt internal regulations to define its own working procedures. The Assembly should decide:

1. The approval of the guidelines in pursuit of the PROXIMITY GECT targets and the pursuit of monitoring activities in order to achieve the result;
2. The PROXIMY GECT resolution for winding up;
3. The admission of a new member;
4. The approval of amendments to the Convention and to the Statute;

5. The adoption of the annual and multi-annual budgets, the amendments to the same and the accounting deeds contemplated by Article 48 of Law no. 88 of 2009 of the Italian Republic; from the constitution of the PROXIMITY GECT won't arise any additional burden to public finances. The Administrations of the Basilicata Region and the Epirus will implement the PROXIMITY GECT with the available human, financial and instrumental resources during the existing legislation.

The Assembly shall be convened once a year.

The Assembly is convened by the President. In any case, the President shall be obliged to convene the Assembly when requested by at least one of the components.

Art. 17

President

- 1) The President of "PROXIMITY GECT" has the function of guarantor of the technical parteship Italy – Greece of Basilicata Region and Epirus Region. The President remains in office for 7 years and may be re-appointed for another 7 years.
- 2) The first President of "PROXIMITY GECT" is chosen by Basilicata Region and Epirus Regio. He/she'll be in the PROXIMITY GECT General Secratariat He/she'll be the one who made all the institutional process according to the assignment entrusted by the D.P.G.R. n. 296 of Basilicata Regione of 05/12/2016, the reconfirmation of the Basilcata Region deliberation n°877 of 04 agosto 2017 and the final delibertion ale n° 341 of 30 aprile 2018 and validated by the Epirus Region.
- 3) In the case of the "PROXIMITY GECT" President's absence or impediment, his/her place is taken by the substitute indicated pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 16.
- 4) The President:
 - convokes and chairs the Assembly meetings, establishing the agenda;
 - validates, subject to the authorisation of the Assembly, agreements and contracts which do not constitute the execution of management activities;
 - controls expenses on the basis of the periodic programmes approved by the Assembly and controls the revenues of "PROXIMITY GECT";
 - presents to the Assembly the annual and multi-annual budgets, their amendments and the other accounting deeds contemplated by Article 48 of Law no. 88 of 2009 of the Italian Republic;
 - proposes to the Assembly, in synergy with the Director-General, the annual programme of works.

Art. 18

Statutory Auditors

- 1) The financial, economic and asset management of “PROXIMITY GECT” is subject to the control of Auditors, which examines the accounting deeds, attaches a report, and, also verifying the maintenance of the financial balance, audits the financial, administrative and asset management. The auditors have right of access to the “PROXIMITY GECT” deeds and documents and may carry out all the verifications the management trend deemed opportune.
- 2) The “PROXIMITY GECT” Assembly appoints the Auditor. Each “PROXIMITY GECT” member intrusts the President to designate an Auditor chosen from among the ones registered as Statutory Auditors.

Art. 19

Director General and Personnel

- 1) “PROXIMITY GECT” appoints a Director General, and may hire personnel, bearing the costs itself, within the limits and according to the conditions established by the organisational regulations. “PROXIMITY GECT” may take avail of personnel made available by its members, with respect for the relative laws in force. The Director General remains in office for 7 years and may be re-appointed for another 7 years.
- 2) The General Manager represents the Proximity Gect and acts on behalf of Proximity Gect as provided by the art.10, paragraph 1, letter b of the EC Regulation CE 1082/2006.

Art. 20

Resources of the EGTC

The “PROXIMITY GECT” resources comprise:

- a) local national, Community and international public funds;
- b) contributions, donations and allocations in general from other public and private subjects destined to finance the “PROXIMITY GECT” activities;
- c) any resource allocated to the PROXIMITY GECT for the day-to-day management shall be provided at 50% by the Basilicata Region and at 50% by the Epirus Region;

d) in accordance with Article 12(2) of Commission Regulation CE 1082/2006 the BASILICATA Region and the Epirus Region shall be liable for PROXIMITY GECT's debt whatever their nature.

e) PROXIMITY GECT shall be liable for the acts of its organs as regards third parties, even where such acts do not fall within the tasks of the EGTC. (Regulation 1082/2006 ART. 10 paragraph 3).

Art. 21

Organisation and Functioning Regulation and Accounting Regulation

The PROXIMITY GECT Internal Regulation for Organization and Functioning as well as the Accounting Regulation shall be adopted by the Assembly.

Art. 22

Final provision

For anything not contemplated by this Statute, reference will be made to Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, of 5 July 2006 and the laws of the Italian Republic in which "PROXIMITY GECT" has its registered office.

Art. 23

Statute amendment procedure

- 1) Statute amendments are approved unanimously by the "PROXIMITY GECT" Assembly.
- 2) Any substantial amendment to the Statute is approved by the procedure contemplated for its first undersigning and for the institution of "PROXIMITY GECT", by Article 4, paragraph 6, of Regulation EC no. 1082/2006 and the amendments and integrations of Regulation (EC) no. 1302/2013 of 17 December 2013 and by the national Italian provisions for the implementation of the same.