FIRST WORKING DRAFT

ALENTEJO PROTOCOL

Better communities for a Smart Tomorrow

The **Alentejo Protocol** is a joint declaration of intents arising from the **European Regions for Smart Communities Summit**.

The Summit framed the Communities as the cornerstone to achieve the European Decade's objectives. European Digital Decade, European Green Deal, European Skills Agenda, European Education Area, Europe on Move, European Health Union, Farm-to-Fork Strategy, New European Bauhaus, Living-inEU, they are all interconnected and for building a smart, sustainable, and better Europe by 2030.

We are developing the Alentejo Protocol to contribute achieve their goals – to provide communities around Europe with space and resources to succeed at the smart transformation.

We believe that to go forward on the path that leads to a more digital, green, and inclusive future, we need to work together.

We remark the need for the Smart Communities to have shared platform to act and invest synergically in order to succeed at the Europe Decade objectives.

We need to cooperate, co-design, and co-develop innovative solution to build a smart tomorrow.

We agree on adopting a holistic approach, based on a multidisciplinary, cross-cutting vision.

We based our common ambition on the strategic alignment of twelve integration areas: smart energy, mobility, health, tourism, and farming; interoperability, data, security; skills, culture, media, and governance.

We believe the following basic principles are fundamental for build Smart Communities, embedded into their distinctive territorial and socio-economic contexts, but with a shared European ambition.

We want to build a common culture alongside our peculiarities. We want jointly tackling enormous global challenges at local level, together. We want to contribute to bring EU at the forefront of the green and digital transition, leading by example for the world.

Alentejo protocol aims to be a tool for the next generation of cooperation. It is based on an interoperability approach. It is a collaborative platform aimed at providing European Smart Communities with a Common Framework. That is an active mechanism oriented to create a shared methodology for all the signatory involved.

Herby, we enounce several positions with which we are in line:

- We acknowledge the fundamental need for a single space for Smart Communities to act together as instrument for achieving the European Decade's objectives.
- We embrace the digital transition, driven by interoperability, openness, and co-design.
- We believe in the culture as the driver for the smart transformation.
- We foster the intergenerational and urban-rural dialog to achieve a more cohesive Europe.
- We encourage the upskills and reskills of all individuals to enable them to benefit best from the digital innovations.
- We reaffirm a shared vision of cooperation, concertation, and strategic alignment.
- We acknowledge the need for a fostering transregional governance and inter-communities' cooperation.
- We commit to work together towards a common framework of rules to support the establishment of an investment platform of Smart Communities.

We reaffirm the will to co-design a detailed road map that ensure the fulfilment of this objectives.

We commit to join forces and resources, continue the stakeholder dialogue in order to boost the green, digital, and inclusive transformation of European communities.

Évora, 07 May 2021