



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
CITY OF BIELLA & KEETMANSHOOP MUNICIPALITY

The City of Biella of the Republic of Italy and the Keetmanshoop Municipality of the Republic of Namibia, hereinafter jointly referred to as the Parties

PREAMBLE

Under the framework of the Biella City’s successful candidature as one of the 246 UNESCO Creative Cities containing a specific project (“Weave Relations”) based on a Cooperation Agreement with a city in an under-represented region in the southern hemisphere, of which Keetmanshoop was chosen as the partnering city, premised on the culture of Karakul farming prevalent in the Karas Region.

Aimed at being the monitoring and evaluation tool in the effective implementation of commitments made by the Biella City under its candidature bid to the UNESCO Creative Cities’ Network Global Competition.

In accordance with the constitutional imperative on Foreign Relations as reflected in Article 96 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and Articles 11 and 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Italy.

Inspired by the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Mission Statement of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Driven by common interests to explore and implement local socio-economic development projects and programmes.

Declare their common intentions to achieve the goals and objectives set out in this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU").

As part of their competences, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 - OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The goals pursued by the two cities are to develop an active collaboration between Italy and Namibia in the following areas:

- Biella offers training support and mentorship for Keetmanshoop's future candidacy for the Unesco Creative Cities Network;
- Promotion of support activities by local economic operators to the development of Namibian weaving / crafts as strategic alternatives to the trade of animal fur.

ARTICLE 2- REGULATORY UNCHANGE CLAUSE

This Memorandum of Understanding is applied in full compliance with the laws and regulations in force in the respective countries, as well as in compliance with international obligations and with those deriving from Italy's membership of the European Union.

ARTICLE 3 - COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES

The following activities will be carried out within the Memorandum of Understanding:

- 3.1 Tutoring and cooperation initiatives within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network with the aim of making Keetmanshoop join the UCCN global network in the future.
- 3.2 Technical cooperation concerning municipal governance best practices and smart city development.
- 3.3 Promotion of technical assistance and cooperation initiatives for the development of a wool processing industry in Keetmanshoop.
- 3.4 Cooperation in initiatives that support the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including education and skills development, investment, trade, cultural exchanges and tourism promotion.
- 3.5 Collaboration on human resources development and exchange programs between the two municipalities and the two municipal councils.

ARTICLE 4 - FINANCIAL NEUTRALITY CLAUSE

All the activities planned or resulting from the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be covered, for the Italian side, in the budget of the Municipality of Biella, without generating financial burdens on the State.

ARTICLE 5 – INFORMATION

The Parties will inform the Embassies competent for the territory of their respective countries on the progress of the initiatives planned in implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE 6 - MODIFICATIONS AND INTEGRATIONS

Any changes or additions to this Memorandum of Understanding may be defined in writing with the consent of the Parties and, for the Italian Party, in compliance with procedures similar to those provided for the authorization of this deed.

ARTICLE 7 - INTERPRETATIVE DIVERGENCES

Any divergence in the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved amicably, through direct consultations between the Parties.

ARTICLE 8 - EFFECTIVENESS AND DURATION

This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective upon signature and will have a duration of five years.

It may be expressly renewed between the Parties through written communication and in compliance with the procedures provided for by the respective national laws.

Each Party may terminate the effectiveness of this Memorandum of Understanding at any time through written communication to the other Party.

Stipulated in on in two originals, each in the Italian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

City of Biella

Municipality of Keetmanshoop

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Claudio Corradino

Gaudentia Kröhne

Mayor

Mayor