



Comune di Bologna



FONDAZIONE DEL MONTE
DI BOLOGNA E RAVENNA
1473

**Open Collaboration Pact
between the City of Bologna and
Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna
“CO-BOLOGNA PROGRAM”**



INTRODUCTION:

On 19 May 2014 the Bologna City Council approved a resolution called “Regulation on the collaboration among citizens and administration for the care and regeneration of urban commons” (hereinafter “Regulation”). Its main purpose is to facilitate further approval and application of specific provisions related to organizational and management plans on those issues.

The Regulation will go through an experimentation trial of one year, thus enabling the whole Municipality, including local associations and engaged citizens, to monitor and review the implementation of such provisions, and to adjust/revise them accordingly. On the same date, the Bologna City Council also approved a document asking the Mayor and City counsellors to ensure a broader coordination regarding such monitor and review activities – under the of direct supervision of its Direttore General Director.

Given that the implementation of the Regulation requires a coordinated effort aimed at reaching an appropriate and timely response, the following goals are identified as top priorities:

- improving the organizational culture for fostering civic collaboration and independent initiatives promoted by citizens and associations, as stated in Italian Constitution ex art. 2 and 4.2 and 118.4.
defining the range of administrative tools for managing a collaborative relationship
- with citizens and associations;
- defining the right procedures to acquire and set up collaboration proposals and to further monitor their implementation;
- dissemination of the Regulation resolution, along with information on related projects and achieved results.

On 10 June 2014 the Bologna Municipality also created an intersectoral Working Group including key administrative positions, focused on implementation, development and monitoring of the Regulation and particularly focused on advancing collaborative agreements within the administrative action.

In order to set up reliable operational and monitoring tools, along with other measures to prevent bottlenecks or problems, four thematic working groups addressed legal issues (procedure design, collaboration agreement), managements matters, communication strategies, and civic reporting. The outcome of all working group activities was then summarized in a “handbook 1.0” detailing the implementation of the Regulation provisions.

Taking advantage of the “Del Rio Act” and its focus on public inter-sectorial governance, this “Metropolitan City” project could actually can become an enabling platform of civic collaboration and local collaborative governance. Therefore it is emerging the need for designing and implementing a collaborative governance process for the support of the administrative structure in order to facilitate the activities correlated with the implementation of the civic collaboration policies.

As outlined in its strategic and operative planning documents, the “Collaborare è Bologna” programme is focused on innovate and improve the quality of local democracy and relationship between the City Municipality itself and the local community at large (citizens, businesses, civil society organizations, cultural and knowledge institutions);

While the Regulation was enacted following an administrative experiment as part of the “The city as a commons” project funded by Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna, this Foundation is committed to provide financial support also for the 2015-16 framework. In particular, the upcoming projects include a drafting of a “White Book on the civic collaboration and the local collaborative governance for the urban and local commons”, with the following objectives:

- analysis, assessment, and evaluation of the experimental phase and implementation of the Regulation and the collaboration agreements;
- identification of weak spots or other problems and introduction of corrective actions on civic collaboration;
- implementing experimental projects to expand strategies and tools of civic collaboration and local collaborative governance, social innovation and collaborative economy, in accordance with the Regulation provisions and in other administrative measures;
- identification of best practices for designing organizational structures and procedural norms based on a civic collaboration principle;
- broader dissemination at National and International levels of the results and effects of this civic collaboration process and local collaborative governance began in Bologna.

The Bologna Municipality and the Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna appoint Prof. Christian Iaione as the person in charge of above-mentioned activities and projects. As head of the research project “**LabGov (LABoratory for the GOVERNance of commons)**”, established within the International Center on Democracy and Democratization of LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome), Prof. Iaione has the required scientific and International expertise to successfully carry such project and he has already been instrumental in the Regulation drafting and the organization of the upcoming “City as a commons” conference.

THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE:

1. to establish a “public innovation unit” coordinated by the Municipality’s Director General, in charge of coordinating regular meetings of all stakeholders in order to address, oversee, support, foster, evaluate and measure all the experimentation, implementation and development activities related to the Regulation itself;
2. to be willing to expand the public collaboration unit with members from civil society organizations, knowledge and cultural institutions, local business community and other local public institutions;
3. to collaborate on a wider scale to promote the “Collaborare è Bologna” project as a cornerstone of a larger local collaborative governance network, called CO-Bologna, in order to create a hub for designing of intersectoral local public policies and to transform Bologna in a truly collaborative city enabling and facilitating participation of non-public local actors; the main goal is to support people needs and ideas, stimulating a variety of urban commons projects to reach a social, economic, and territorial well-being;
4. to set up an online platform (“Bologna collaborates”) in coordination with similar web platforms at local level in order to expand civic collaboration and the collaborative governance, providing also further visibility to the CO-Bologna process;
5. to activate a co-design process and a commons governance laboratory directly involving the Municipality and its citizens for experimenting new tools of civic collaboration and local collaborative governance, including the establishment of a public office/space for providing specific information, learning and training people interested in civic collaboration projects; the long-term goal is to create a community centre of best practices involving citizens, civil servants, politicians, experts, practitioners, entrepreneurs, associations, etc. (with further connections at National and International levels).
6. to establish an International Advisory Board composed by independent experts that support, monitor, evaluate, and inform about the “CO-Bologna process” and the “CO-Bologna method” as outlined above;
7. to organize one or more public events (possibly with International exposure) to promote the “CO-Bologna process” and the “CO-Bologna method” as best practices in this filed value and to create a network of similar experiences, inspired by similar principles and strategies, including all worldwide cities engaged in the development and implementation of civic collaboration and local collaborative governance;
8. to work together for drafting a “White Book on the civic collaboration and the local collaborative governance for the urban and local commons”, including information

and documents pertinent to the Regulation and other useful resources related to civic collaboration and local collaborative governance.

9. to invite other parties and people to join this collaboration agreement, with particular focus on economic and social agents that share the same values and objectives at local and National level.
10. to always act for the general interest and well-being of our community, and thus to trust everybody involved in the agreement implementation and to apply the common social norms of public and civic ethics; the parties also agree to carry a constant and reciprocal monitoring of their own activities, along with a citizen monitoring to expose any violations of, values, principles and goals of this agreement, and to apply the shared social sanctions in case of proven violations.

Translated by Alessandra Feola and Bernardo Parrella



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