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Call for Expression of Interest for Peer-to-Peer Cooperation Between European Local Authorities and Iraqi Governorates under the Programme

'Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development'

Funded by the European Union and Implemented by UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is calling on all **EUROPEAN UNION LOCAL AUTHORITIES & ASSOCIATIONS & UNIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES/MUNICIPALITIES FOR PEER-TO-PEER COOPERATION WITH IRAQI GOVERNORATES** to join our Peer-to-Peer Cooperation under the wider EU-funded programme entitled 'Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development'.

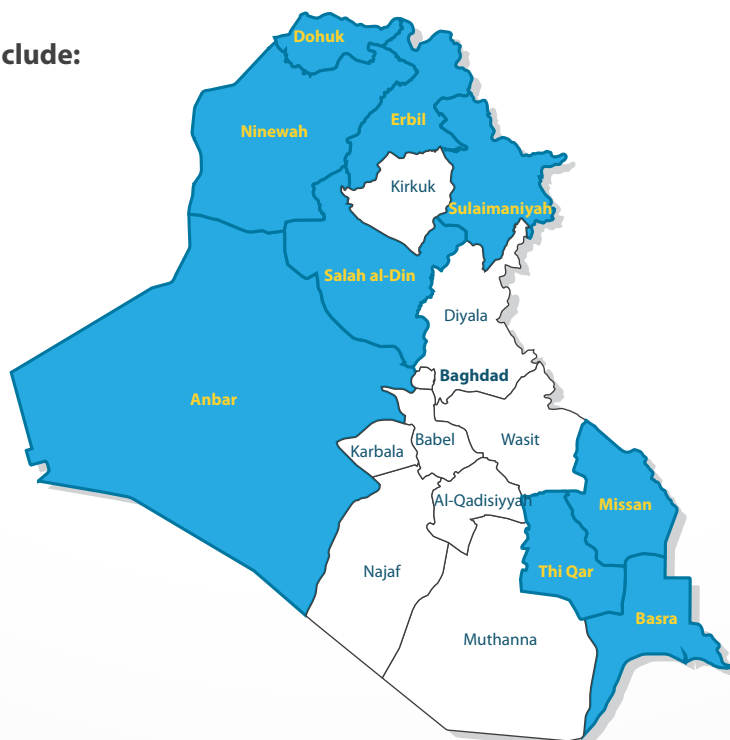
Peer-to-Peer is a participatory initiative that aims at opening up new channels of dialogue and 'ways of working' between local government institutions of different countries (Iraq and EU Member States in this case), in addition to facilitating the exchange of information and expertise on the decentralisation of powers from central to local government.

The **specific objectives** of the Peer-to-Peer initiative are as follows:

- **Capacity building:** EU local authorities are expected to provide on-the-job training and transfer knowledge/skills/experiences in relation to the decentralisation of powers from central to local government;
- **Networking and advocacy:** Greater cultural understanding between both Peers and their respective constituencies; and
- **Exchange of best practices, policies and intervention** on the decentralisation process from EU MS local authorities that have already undergone such a process.

Iraqi Governorates taking part in this Cooperation include:

- Anbar
- Basra
- Dohuk
- Erbil
- Missan
- Nineveh
- Salah-ah-Din
- Sulaymaniyah
- Thi Qar





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Process

- 1- Expression of Interest-** a template that will contain information regarding the profile and expertise of the EU local authority applying to be part of the initiative, in addition to a number of declarations that the local authority must sign.
- 2- Evaluation-** each of the respective Governorates in Iraq, with the support of UNDP, will choose a European local authority (based on evaluation grids) most suited to their profile and decentralisation needs.
- 3- Multiple Peers-** Iraqi Governorates will be permitted to partner with more than one EU Member State local authority with complimenting expertise provided that there is a mutual understanding and agreement among the European local authorities;
- 4- Proposal-** The selected peers from the EU and Iraq will jointly develop a Scope of work in the form of a Project Document. This should include but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Decentralisation needs gap assessment;
 - b. Decentralisation needs gap plugging;
 - c. On-the-job training and coaching;
 - d. Study visits; and
 - e. Any other innovative approach and/or tools related to the topic.
- 5- Budget-** the maximum budget for each Peer-to-Peer agreement is US\$500,000.
- 6- The Eligibility and Selection criteria** of the European local authority shall be the following:
 - a. The local authority should be from a MS of the European Union;
 - b. The local authority should have experience in the decentralisation of powers from central to local government;
 - c. The local authority must have a profile matching to the profile of the Governorate they apply to peer with and justification thereof;
 - d. The local authority must comply with all the requirements in [the Expression of Interest form](#).

Local authorities in Europe interested in participating are requested to submit the Expression of Interest form by **13th March 2020**. If any MS or umbrella European Association of Municipality is interested in organising an information session about the Peer-to-Peer Scheme, please contact Ms. Leila Taleb of UNDP

Please contact Ms. Leila Taleb of UNDP via email: Leila.sabrina.taleb@undp.org with **Mr. AbdulKerim Al-Khafaji** in cc: Abdulkerim.al-khafaji@undp.org. Alternatively, you can phone **Ms. Leila Taleb** on: **+964 751 765 40 31**.

