

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM

### 4TH POLISH STANDING CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

“Poland- Nordic countries. Self-government dimension of international cooperation”

organized on 17-18 November 2015 in Kielce

- **Polish government should make good use of the capital and the potential of self-government diplomacy.**
- **There is a need for further strengthening of self-government and civic dimension of Polish foreign policy.** The new Polish government and the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should continue pursuing a favourable direction of cooperation with self-government partners, both in terms of substantive cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with self-governments, increasing financial means for self-governments within the financial mechanism aimed at developing self-government and civic dimension of Polish foreign policy, and increasing the participation of self-governments in shaping and implementing Polish foreign policy within various national and supranational collegial bodies operating in this realm. The actual inclusion of representatives of self-governments in the composition of official foreign visits of the government representatives should also take place. There is a necessity to provide substantive support and enhance bilateral communication between the government and self-governments as well as among particular levels of self-government in Poland. Legal regulations with regard to the international activity of Polish self-governments, including the provision of development and humanitarian assistance to foreign countries require some changes and flexibility. The process of the implementation of funds for international cooperation, e.g. Interreg should be made less bureaucratic.
- **The Polish Standing Conference on the International Cooperation of Local Self-governments should be permanently included in the calendar of the cooperation of the government with Polish self-governments as well as the mutual cooperation of self-governments at all levels.**
- **Polish self-governance- Polish self-government reform is an excellent “Polish export commodity,”** particularly for the countries of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, which should be promoted and used to the benefit of the Polish reason of state.
- **The Nordic self-government model and also the policy of pragmatic reformism, the culture of participation, cooperation and consensus functioning in the Nordic countries should set an example for Poland.**
- **There is huge, still untapped potential of the Polish-Nordic cooperation,** particularly in the sphere of economy, security, defense as well as environmental and energy policies at all administrative levels.

- **Strengthening the Polish-Nordic cooperation may have a significant impact on both regional and global international relations.**
- **There is growing significance of the Polish-Nordic relations at regional and local level.** The development of cooperation at these levels requires new stimuli. Therefore, it is recommended that the **“Norden Year in Poland”** programme be initiated in intergovernmental and inter-self-governmental cooperation, which might be continued by the Nordic countries in the form of **“Polish Year in their foreign policies.”**
- **Polish self-governments should increase their involvement in the development of economic cooperation with the Nordic countries,** which will lend credibility and bolster the position of Polish business entities in the Nordic markets.