**PRESS RELEASE**

On Saturday 20 October 2018, at the emblematic building of the Ionian Parliament, in the town of Corfu, the Statutes establishing the Civil Society Network of Historical cities of the Eastern Mediterranean were signed by the partners “San Giacomo” Association from Corfu, “Associazione 25 Aprile” from Venice, “Udruga Grad” from Dubrovnik, “exARTIS” from Paphos, Cyprus, “RICHes” from Rhodes and “Regno di Candia” from Crete.

The aims of the ***“Civil Society Network of Mediterranean Historical cities****”,* as set in the Statutes put an emphasis on the conservation of their cultural heritage, the protection and promotion of their cultural identity, the cooperation for their sustainability and the prevention and tackling, where required, of threatening phenomena, such as over-tourism, providing bases for livable cities.

In order to fulfil their objectives, the participating organizations will exchange experience, collaborate with European and International Organizations, such as UNESCO, seek the cooperation of strategic partners and bodies and other Civil Society stakeholders.

According to the Statutes, the yearly Presidency of the Network will follow a rotation system, beginning from Venice. The yearly meetings of the members will take place at the city holding the Presidency each time.