



**DEAR COLLEAGUES AND PARTNERS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIL SERVICE, DEAR HONORED GUESTS,**

I thank you for your invitation to take the floor on the occasion of your international Round table discussion on "Local Self-Governance in the conditions of recovery in Ukraine: Challenges and prospects."

Local self-governance is one of the cornerstones of democracy and the empowerment of citizens. In old democracies like the United States, civil liberties and participation rights were first established on a local level, before they were extended to a state and national level.

Local self-governance is also a fundamental element of the European integration process. In fact, according to the principle of subsidiarity enshrined in the European treaties, competences should be delegated to the most appropriate, lowest level of governance, the European level only acting on those issues which local, regional or national authorities are unable to tackle efficiently. Also, the regional policy of the European Union emphasizes local governance as an important stakeholder to enhance the cohesion of our community.

In the context of reconstruction, local authorities are the pivotal actors. They will also be pivotal in the process of European integration of Ukraine, which has now begun. Partner institutions like CIFE are ready to support you in this process and congratulate IPACS on the educational initiatives it is taking.

Let me extend my wishes for fruitful discussion to you at the Round table "Local Self-Governance in the conditions of recovery in Ukraine: Challenges and prospects."

**MATTHIAS WAECHTER**  
Director General CIFE