

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF**  
***ROUTES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY***

The University of Ferrara (IT),  
The An-Najah National University (PNA),  
The Humboldt-University of Berlin (D),  
The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (RCH),  
The Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná (BR),  
The South China University of Technology (PRC),  
The Universidad Católica de Córdoba (AR),  
The University Gaston Berger (SN),  
The University of Warsaw (PL),  
The Waseda University (J),  
The École d'Architecture de la ville e des Territoires à Marne-la-Vallée (FR),  
The Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali (COL),  
The Université Bourgogne Franche Comté (FR),  
The University of Calabria (IT),  
The ITESO - Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara (MEX),  
The Universidade Estadual de Campinas (BR),  
The University of Hanoi (VN),  
The Universiteit Leiden (NL),  
The Universidad Piloto de Colombia (COL).  
The Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Seccional Medellín (COL),  
The Universidade do Porto (PT),  
The Western Sydney University (AU),  
The Univerzity Karlovy v Praze (CH).  
(hereinafter the Promoting Parties)

**And the U.....**

having understood the importance of sustainability, as a powerful paradigm to determine the future development with regard to Human and Social cohesion, to the preservation of the Natural Environment, to Urban growth and with regard to Public Finances of states and local governments, and wishing to cooperate by promoting the development of scientific knowledge and progressive international integration between universities, researchers, students and other partners, along with having considered the necessity to promote the mission, the purposes, and the activities of integration, internationalization and academic exchange, have reached the following understanding:

**1. Establishment of *ROUTES towards SUSTAINABILITY***

1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding represents an agreement between the Promoting Parties and relates to their collaboration for the purposes identified in section 2 below. This collaboration

is carried out through the establishment of the ***ROUTES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY*** Network of excellence (hereinafter *ROUTES*).

1.2. ***ROUTES*** builds on the expertise of the Promoting Parties and of other Parties (hereinafter Associated Partners) as: other universities, local, national or international companies, public, private or non-profit agencies, supra-national institutions, research centers and foundations, etc.

## **2. *ROUTES* purposes and activities**

2.1. The main purposes of ***ROUTES*** are:

- a) to promote the network through cooperation among members, and, where appropriate, in collaboration with any other national and international organisation as well as through the proposal of specific concepts, models, frameworks, and academic initiatives.
- b) to promote international dialogue on sustainability, considered in its broadest sense (from the sustainability of ecosystems to the financial sustainability of public policies and sovereign debt; from the sustainability of cities to the sustainability of industrial production and agricultural policies) with other organisations and interested parties such companies and their representative bodies, policy makers, regulatory authorities, and universities throughout actions and initiatives with high scientific and social impacts.

2.2. The activities of ***ROUTES*** include:

- a) jointly develop research projects involving the direct participation of researchers of the parties to the projects;
- b) jointly develop advanced learning projects especially aimed at designing tertiary level teaching modules with a trans-national content (I and II level graduate courses, research doctorates, masters);
- c) mutually exchange research staff for no more than an annual term each time;
- d) mutually exchange graduate or post-graduate students for no less than a bimonthly term each time;
- e) jointly participate in student mobility schemes;
- f) jointly organise and run seminars or science symposiums;
- g) co-publish any scientific text, freely exchanging any information, work, paper, and/or report without any restriction whatsoever;
- h) to disseminate information and best practices concerning themes and aims of the *Routes towards Sustainability* Network through, amongst others, conferences, workshops and dedicated WebPages;
- i) to encourage the conclusion of international agreements designed to promote internationalization processes of teaching and advanced research on the defined topics for the network construction;
- j) to establish working relationships, to cooperate with, and provide input to other national and international organisations in the field covered by this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **3. Specific agreements**

3.1. Specific joint activities and arrangements for exchanges, visits and other forms of cooperation in the framework of the present Memorandum of Understanding shall be detailed in specific operational agreements to be concluded among **ROUTES** members interested in implementing the specific activity.

**4. Financial issues**

4.1. The Promoting Parties agree that all financial arrangements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds.

4.2. Funding arrangements related to specific joint activities shall be inserted in the specific agreement described in section 3 above.

**5. Final Clauses**

5.1. The present Memorandum of Understanding is valid for a five year period and is tacitly renewed for a successive two year period. For the U.... , as identified in article 7.1 of “Rules and Regulations”, the Coordinator who will be part of the Steering Committee will be Professor ..... of the Department/Faculty/Institute/ of .....

5.2. Any modification or amendment to the present Memorandum of Understanding must be unanimously approved by the Promoting Parties.

5.3. Any Promoting Parties may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding within 6 months by written notice.

5.4. This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective after its signature by all Promoting Parties, on the day of the last signature.

**The Parties**

U.....(name of the university in the original language)

Prof. ....

CHANCELLOR

**SIGNATURE** **DATE** **STAMP**

Università degli Studi di Ferrara

Prof. Giorgio Zauli

Magnifico Rettore

**SIGNATURE** **DATE** **STAMP**