

Rep. n. 12 11 Prot. n. 19 459 del 1918/13

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF

ROUTES towards sustainability

NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE

The University of Ferrara (I)

The An-Najah National University (PNA)

The Humboldt Universität, Berlin (D)

The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago (RCH)

The Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Curitiba (BR)

The South China University of Technology, Guangzhou (PRC)

The Universidad Católica de Cordoba (AR)

The Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis du Sénégal (SN)

The Uniwersytet Warszawski (PL)

The Waseda University di Tokyo (J)

(hereinafter the Promoting Parties)

having recognized the importance of sustainability as a powerful paradigm to determine future development with regard to human and social cohesion, to the preservation of the natural environment, to urban growth, 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 and also considering the necessity to promote the mission, purposes, and activities of integration, internationalization and academic exchange, have reached the following understanding:

1. Establishment of the ROUTES towards sustainability Network of excellence

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) such as: other universities, local, national or international companies, public, private or non-profit agencies, supra-national institutions, research centres and foundations, etc.

2. ROUTES purposes and activities

- 2.1. The main purposes of ROUTES are
- a) promoting ROUTES 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) promoting international dialogue on sustainability, considered in its broadest sense (from the sustainability of ecosystems to the financial sustainability of public policies, of sovereign debt and its restructuring; from the sustainability of cities to the sustainability of industrial production and agricultural policies) with other organisations and interested parties such as companies and their representative bodies, policy makers, regulatory authorities, and universities through actions and initiatives with high scientific and social impacts.

2.2. To achieve its purposes ROUTES will

- a) jointly develop research projects involving the direct participation of researchers of the parties in the projects;
- b) jointly develop advanced learning projects especially aimed at designing tertiary level teaching modules with a transnational content (I and II level graduate courses, research doctorates, masters);
- c) mutually exchange research staff;
- d) mutually exchange graduate or post-graduate students;
- e) jointly participate in student mobility schemes;
- f) jointly organise and run seminars or symposiums;
- g) co-publish any scientific text, freely exchanging any information, work, paper, and report without any restriction whatsoever;
- h) disseminate information and best practices concerning ROUTES themes and aims through, amongst others, conferences, workshops and dedicated Web pages;
- i) encourage the conclusion of agreements designed to promote internationalization processes of teaching and advanced research on the defined topics for network construction;
- j) establish working relationships, to cooperate with, and provide input to other national and international organisations in the field covered by this Memorandum of Understanding;
- k) stimulate any other form of collaboration relevant to its scope.

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.
- 5.2. Any modification or amendment to the present Memorandum of Understanding must be unanimously approved by the Promoting Parties.
- 5.3. Any Promoting Party may withdraw from this Memorandum of Understanding giving 6 months written notice.

| SIGNATURES | DEGLIS |
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| The University of Ferrara (I) | |
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| Prof. Christoph G. Paulus, President | |
| The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago (RCI | H) |
| Dr. Ignacio Sánchez Díaz, Rector | nd. |
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