

**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN
ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM
AGREEMENT**

Rhodes, 23 October 2008

The Parties to the Present Agreement

Having considered

That they have common aims in the field of university teaching and research and that they wish to enhance Euro-Mediterranean academic cooperation, in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) established in Slovenia.

Have Agreed

To sign a Euro-Med Academic Consortium Agreement (EMACA), hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”, providing as follows:

Article 1

Goals

The cooperation described hereinafter aims at promoting the teaching and research on Euro-Mediterranean issues, by establishing an Academic Consortium and a Research Centre on the Eastern Mediterranean (in French: Centre de Recherches sur la Méditerranée orientale - CREMO) which will have its legal residence in Rhodes, Greece

Article 2

Areas of cooperation

Cooperation shall cover the following areas:

- a. the exchange of students, researchers and academic staff, in accordance with the annual work-program and the specific projects agreed in the context of the present Agreement and in compliance with the relevant laws and internal regulations of the Parties;
- b. the establishment of joint curricula and diplomas, the exchange and diffusion of expertise in the field of university evaluation and assessment, the promotion of innovative teaching methods and the dissemination of relevant materials;
- c. the elaboration and implementation of joint research projects and networks;
- d. the organisation and implementation of scientific colloquia, conferences, summer schools and other academic events;
- e. the joint production of publications, academic journals and any other kind of publication of interest to the Parties.

Article 3

Implementing procedures

1. A Steering Committee (in French: Comité de gestion), composed of representatives of the Parties is responsible for the implementation of the

present Agreement. The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year in Rhodes, Greece. Meetings shall be convened by the Coordinator at least three months prior to their actual sitting and may be coordinated with other academic events.

2. The representatives of the Parties are appointed by the Rectors or Presidents of the participating Universities and Institutes and are also responsible for coordinating and monitoring all activities to be developed within the scope of the present Agreement.

3. Decisions and agreements regarding the implementation of the present Agreement, including the annual work-programme and specific projects, are reached by consensus of the members of the Steering Committee, upon recommendation of a Scientific Committee consisting of independent experts, and are recorded in the minutes of the former. Parties with no interest in specific projects are deemed to abstain from the relevant decisions. Implementing decisions on such projects are reached by the Parties participating therein.

Article 4

Mobility of students, researchers and teaching staff

1. Projects involving the mobility of students, researchers or teaching staff must contain:

- a. the goals, description, target group and duration of the project;
- b. the names of the persons responsible for the project from each Party,
- c. the number, missions and duration of stay of the beneficiaries;
- d. details on the funding of the project and the relevant budget;
- e. in the context of student mobility, a learning agreement between the participating universities, describing the courses to be offered and the procedures for the transfer of credits, in compliance with applicable laws and university regulations;
- f. in the context of Joint Master's Programs, the structure and curricula of studies, as well as the criteria for the admission of students.

2. The host institution shall provide the beneficiaries with the necessary assistance during their stay. In particular, it shall provide assistance for arranging accommodation and establishing personal contacts with the members of the academic staff of the relevant programme.

3. Student beneficiaries shall have the same duties as local students, except as otherwise provided. They shall also have the same rights and entitlements as local students, including access to the facilities of the host institution, under the terms and conditions applied to local students.

Article 5

Information-sharing

Information resulting from the joint activities carried out in the context of the present Agreement shall be accessible to all Parties, except as otherwise provided in the implementing agreements drawn up in accordance with article 3.

Article 6

Non-exclusivity

The present Agreement shall in no way limit the power of the Parties to conclude similar agreements among themselves or with other institutions. Nevertheless, the Parties will abstain from projects which are in direct competition with projects implemented in the context of the present agreement.

Article 7

Financial implications

1. Implementing decisions and agreements with financial implications are submitted for final approval to the relevant decision-making bodies of the Parties cooperating in the specific projects.
2. The Parties shall do everything in their power to have the specific projects financed or co-financed by their respective public authorities, such as Ministries and aid institutions.
3. The Parties, acting jointly, shall also seek the financial support of International and European Organisations, NGOs and private donors. They shall especially seek the financial support of the European Union, in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy and Euro-med financial instruments, as well as the Erasmus Mundus, Jean Monnet and Marie Curie projects.
4. The Parties shall exchange information on the availability of financial resources. In its fund-raising duties, the Steering Committee shall be assisted by an Endowment Committee, consisting of distinguished personalities from the business world. The Endowment Committee shall also give its opinion on the annual budget. The annual financial report shall be submitted by the Steering Committee to independent auditors for certification.
5. Travel and accommodation expenses for students and visiting fellows shall be covered totally or in part by scholarships and fellowships, as provided in the specific projects. Visiting Fellows involved in teaching activities are also

entitled to fees paid by the host institution. Accommodation expenses for the members of the Steering Committee, the Scientific Committee and the Endowment Committee are covered by the Party hosting the committee meetings. In addition to the above, the Party hosting the Scientific Committee meeting shall cover the travel expenses and *per diems* of its members.

6. For projects and publications which may yield financial benefits, the Parties shall agree on the relevant legal regime, with particular reference to copyright protection rules and royalties.

Article 8

Amendments - Interpretation

1. Amendments to the present agreement are submitted for deliberation to the Steering Committee and are thereafter submitted for final approval to the decision-making bodies of the Parties.

2. Any question concerning the interpretation of the present Agreement and the implementing agreements may be referred by the Steering Committee to a panel of independent experts from non-participating countries. Their opinion will be binding on the Parties.

Article 9

Duration - Withdrawal

1. The present Agreement shall be valid for a period of three years from its entry into force, with tacit one-year extensions thereafter.

2. Any Party can withdraw from the present Agreement by means of a written notification to be sent to the Rectorate of the University of the Aegean, acting as Depository Institution, at least six months prior to the expiry of the Agreement or to its one-year extension, without prejudice to the Parties which have not requested their withdrawal.

Article 10

Signing, Entry into Force, Accessions

1. The present Agreement shall remain open for signature until the 31st day of December 2008.

2. The present Agreement shall enter into force on the 1st of January 2009.

3. Upon its entry into force, the Agreement shall be open to accession. In such a case, the Institution that wishes to join, shall submit its request to the Steering Committee. Within three months from the deliberation of the latter,

the final approval is deemed to be granted if no objection is notified in writing to the Rectorate of the University of the Aegean, acting as Depository Institution.

Done at Rhodes, on 23 October 2008

On behalf of