

General agreement and minimum requirements of EU-CONEXUS PhD Co-tutelle in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

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EU CONEXUS
European University for Smart
Urban Coastal Sustainability



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General agreement and minimum requirements of EU-CONEXUS PhD Co-tutelle in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

Between

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hereafter referred to as LRUniv,

and represented by its President Jean-Marc Ogier,

(2) Agricultural University of Athens, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Iera Odos 75, 118 55 Athens, Greece,

hereafter referred to as AUA,

and represented by its Rector Spyridon Kintzios,

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and represented by its Rector Wolfgang Schareck,

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hereafter referred to as FredU,
and represented by its Rector George Demosthenous,

hereafter referred to individually as ‘partner’ and collectively as ‘partners’.

Preamble

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) is a transnational European higher education and research institution that covers smart urban sustainable coastal development from a global point of view. EU-CONEXUS is composed of 9 European universities, which are located in France, Greece, Spain, Lithuania, Croatia, Romania, Ireland, Germany and Cyprus.

Universities and research institutions have a central role to play in promoting the ‘Blue Economy’ and ‘Blue Growth’ and to contribute to the skills and competences of the graduates who can work in a complex and challenging labour market. A new approach is needed with respect to the way in which we structure programmes of study and research. In response to this need, 9 universities have joined together to merge their strengths and know-how in interdisciplinary short-term and degree programmes, as well as to offer students the opportunity to study at an international inter-campus European University.

Article 1: Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the general and minimum requirements for a EU-CONEXUS PhD Co-tutelle programme for topics related to Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS). This will be referred hereafter as “EU - CONEXUS General co-tutelle agreement”.

A co-tutelle is a PhD programme where a research candidate is jointly enrolled at two universities, in this case members of the EU-CONEXUS alliance and spends time at each university with the PhD/doctoral thesis only defended once. The candidate is jointly supervised by academic staff at each institution, and, upon successful completion of the PhD programme, the candidate is able to graduate with a PhD or equivalent title from each university.

This general agreement establishes only the general framework and the minimum requirements for a PhD Co-tutelle between members of EU-CONEXUS Alliance and shall be associated with a specific bi-lateral co-tutelle signed by the 2 parties, which will establish all required specific conditions for delivering the two PhD degrees and legal diplomas. This latest will referred hereafter as “Co-tutelle bilateral agreement”.

Article 2: Basis

This EU-CONEXUS General co-tutelle agreement has been prepared on the basis of:

- Programme Committee for PhD Study Programmes’s decisions.
- Academic Council and Research Council’s decisions approved by the Governing Board of EU-CONEXUS.
- The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) of the European Higher Education Area and principles of automatic mutual recognition. ECTS allows credits taken at one higher education institution to be counted towards a qualification studied for at another. ECTS credits represent the volume of learning based on defined learning outcomes and their associated workload. In case of non-application of ECTS for doctoral studies the equivalent number of hours is used (1 ECTS = 25 hours of work).

Article 3: Structure and Content of the EU-CONEXUS PhD Co-tutelle

The requirements of the EU-CONEXUS PhD Co-tutelle programme in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (hereafter SmUCS), that the doctoral candidates must fulfil are the following:

1. Research topic:

The research topic of the thesis should be under the umbrella of the Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability on one of the following areas:

- a. Life Sciences and Biotechnology
- b. Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity
- c. Coastal Engineering
- d. Social, Culture and Human Sciences

2. **Supervisors:** the doctoral candidate will have two supervisors, one from each EU-CONEXUS partner involved in the co-tutelle.
3. **Language:** The PhD thesis shall be written and submitted in English (preferably) or one of the other official languages in the EU.
4. **Research stay:** part of the PhD shall be prepared at the EU-CONEXUS co-tutelle partner university (at least 6 months, consecutive or not).
5. **Workload:** The PhD student shall have a part of the workload shared with the co-tutelle partner and with other partners within the EU-CONEXUS Alliance. This can be achieved by following the courses offered by EU-CONEXUS in the catalogue for transversal and SmUCS skills and by other shared activities (research reports, participation at EU-CONEXUS Summer school etc). The minimum requirement for a co-tutelle within the EU-CONEXUS alliance and for obtaining an EU-CONEXUS certificate is to obtain 30 ECTS or the equivalent in hours of work (750 hours) from these shared activities, on the whole duration of the thesis, from shared courses and shared research activities. In terms of shared courses chosen from the above-mentioned catalogue, the minimum required number of hours of work is 250 or equivalent ECTS (10 ECTS). The other 20 ECTS or 500 hours of work can be achieved by specific activities to be defined in the co-tutelle bilateral agreement, either by shared courses chosen from the above mentioned catalogue or other research activities (research reports, participation at EU-CONEXUS Summer school etc).
6. **Defence:** For the composition of the defence committee, it is mandatory to have at least one member from a different EU-CONEXUS partner, specialized in the PhD thesis topic, different from the 2 supervisors involved in the co-tutelle.

All the other requirements not defined in this article will be established in the co-tutelle bilateral agreement.

Doctoral candidates, having successfully defended the thesis elaborated under co-tutelle, are entitled to two PhD degree diplomas, one delivered by each partner in the co-tutelle, as agreed by both institutions. The doctoral candidates having fulfilled the programme requirements detailed in this agreement will receive the certificate "EU-CONEXUS Co-tutelle programme in SmUCS" co-signed by all EU-CONEXUS partner universities.

Article 4: Mobility and Credit Recognition

Each EU-CONEXUS course given by a partner university is considered as learning mobility exchange (similar to Erasmus+), is subject to academic recognition and transfer of credits, and can be included in the Diploma Supplement to prove an international curriculum. A student taking a course from a partner university is considered as a participant to academic mobility with all the rights and obligations (similar to Erasmus+), regardless of the type of mobility (virtual, blended or physical).

In case of doctoral studies in co-tutelle, recognition of ECTS or number of workload hours is regulated by the co-tutelle bilateral agreement.

The student can be on virtual or blended mobility at more than one university during the same semester.

Article 5: Legal Clauses

The present Agreement shall come into effect on the date the last party signs and will be valid until 1st of March 2025. At the end of the agreed term, the parties agree to provide an assessment of their cooperation activities. Updates of the agreement can be proposed by any partner and have to be validated by the Academic and Research Council. A partner can decide to leave the agreement with prior notice of six months to the Academic and Research Council.

For La Rochelle Université
President

14 MARS 2023



Jean-Marc Ogier

For Agricultural University of Athens

Rector

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, cursive representation of the name.

Spyridon Kintzios

For Fundación Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir

Rector

24363788A

JOSE MANUEL

PAGAN (R:

G97025787)

Firmado digitalmente por 24363788A JOSE
MANUEL PAGAN (R: G97025787)
Nombre de reconocimiento (DN):
2.5.4.13=Ref:AEAT/AEAT0351/PUESTO
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serialNumber=IDCES-24363788A,
givenName=JOSE MANUEL, sn=PAGAN
AGULLO, cn=24363788A JOSE MANUEL
PAGAN (R: G97025787), 2.5.4.97=VATES-
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Jose Manuel Pagán Agulló

For Klaipėdos Universitetas
Rector



Arturas Razbadauskas

For Sveučilište u Zadru

Rector



Dijana Vican

For Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții București

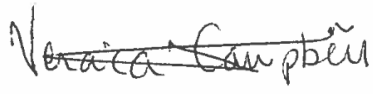
Rector

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Născău'.

Radu Văcăreanu

For South East Technological University

President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned within a light gray rectangular box.

Veronica Campbell

For Universität Rostock

Rector

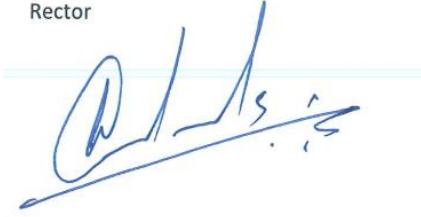
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wolfgang Schareck".

10.3.23

Wolfgang Schareck

For Frederick University

Rector

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Demosthenous", is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

George Demosthenous