



**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
NATIONAL AGENCY OF DIASPORA
IN ALBANIA
AND
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI E-CAMPUS
IN ITALY
FOR
COOPERATION IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, EDUCATION,
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT AND INNOVATION**



National Agency of Diaspora in Albania and Università degli Studi E-Campus in Italy (thereof referred as Parties),

Willing to cooperate in the field of research activities, education, technological advancement and innovation;

- a) eCampus, as an authorized University with D.M. 30.01.2006, can activate and provide degree courses and distance learning courses utilizing information and telematic technologies;
- b) under the Statute, the University is a community whose job is to spread the culture and carry out research activities and formation activities via distance learning, with particular attention to the applications of e-learning. For this purpose, regular courses of study are organized for those who choose to follow this methodological and didactic project, or, for any given reason - job, residence, health – cannot participate regularly to the activities and lessons. The University also offers flexible and customizable educational courses for the continued, recurring and permanent education of adults;
- c) the Italian legislation and specifically the legislative decree 64/17 encourages the worldwide promotion of the Italian educational system in multicultural and pluralistic contexts, as well as the spread and promotion of the Italian culture and language abroad;
- d) the University is interested in starting new collaborations and enhancing the existing ones with public and private, national or international institutions active in the fields of research and promotion of education and transmission of scientific knowledge;
- e) the opportunity of keeping and increasing this kind of collaboration in order to enrich the educational activities, with great contribution to scientific research and the spreading of the results, is acknowledged by the University;
- f) the National Agency of Diaspora, established by law no. 115/2017, aims to develop and consolidate institutional cooperation with diaspora and to protect its rights and interests; to offer assistance in preserving the language and national cultural heritage; to promote economic cooperation between the country of origin and diaspora and cooperation for prosperity, wellness, culture and social solidarity of all the nation.
- g) it is in both institutions' interest to continue and develop research activities of common interest through cooperation on projects and initiatives, utilizing each other's resources;
- h) it is in the interest of both institutions to encourage high-level training through the provision of orientation activities for university and post-graduate courses;
- i) the opportunity of evaluating, in the scope of research activities and education, the fulfillment of professor and student mobility is acknowledged by both institutions, as well as promoting and carrying out every possible scientific collaboration considered useful towards a better realization of each institution's purpose, even with the participation of other public or private, national or international subjects, in order to innovate and exploit the results.

It is hereby agreed and stipulated as follows



Article 1

Premises

1. Premises form an integral and substantial part thereof.
2. The clauses of this agreement will have to be interpreted according to the intentions inferred from the clauses.

Article 2

General principles

1. In order to better achieve the respective institutional purposes, the Parties acknowledge the common interest in maintaining and developing forms of cooperation in partnerships for the conduct of research activities, education, technological advancement and innovation in the educational and formational field, as well as providing services to support the research activities.
2. The internalization of educational, formational and research activities, also through participation to international and European projects, represents a strategic asset in both institutions' position policies. The Parties therefore intend to identify common actions in the definition of network and international relationships, as well as in the organization of institutional events of promotion of the scientific-technological culture and local business. Moreover, collaborations concerning initiatives aimed towards the creation and organization of institutional events, along with other subjects in the field of scientific and business research, will be possible.
3. The Parties intend to identify new models and strategies to strengthen the link with the territory, also in social and cultural terms, through examining new forms of communication and the diffusion of knowledge and experience with a high technological content within the local community.
4. The Parties mutually undertake to evaluate the possibility of creating forms of student mobility and of teaching and research staff and of university orientation activities.

Article 3

Purpose

1. The parties undertake to mutually undertake, in accordance with their respective laws and with regard to the matters pertaining to each, to collaborate in order to:
 - a) identification of priorities for the formulation and development of projects of teaching and orientation in entrance, research, development, also identified through a careful analysis of the demand expressed by the different components of the Albanian social, economic and



- industrial reality, and also in collaboration with other Albanian universities and research institutions;
- b) realization of student mobility, teaching and research;
 - c) planning of joint training courses or providing for the recognition of educational activities in compliance with the regulations in force in the two countries;
 - d) designing, implementing and providing international doctorate courses involving, to this end, Albanian universities;
 - e) exploitation of research results, technological transfer and innovation, favoring interactions with the industrial and territorial system;
 - f) carrying out educational activities, research and dissemination of the results of the research activities (the third Mission) by the University professors at the Albanian institutions and universities.
2. These actions will be developed favoring also collaborations and synergies with the National Bodies and Agencies, with the industrial system and with any other Bodies that show the interest to participate.
 3. The collaboration between the parties will be governed by the provisions contained:
 - a) in this Agreement;
 - b) in the individual Operating Acts described below;
 - c) in all applicable provisions.

Article 4

Collaboration for research, development and innovation activities

1. The parties will foster mutual cooperation in research, development and innovation. It is understood that during the period of validity of this Agreement, the parties may agree specific research themes.
2. These forms of collaboration can be achieved through the stipulation of Operational Acts, later disciplined, identifying the scientific structures of each body involved in the project. Each Act must be approved by the Parties according to their internal laws.
3. The collaborative activities in carrying out partnerships of specific projects may include, for example:
 - a) the definition of medium-term research programs and the development of research, development and innovation projects for the joint participation in the European Framework Programs, in addition to the formulation of proposals at national and international level;
 - b) collaboration in the development and promotion of activities of joint interest through the international networks in which the parties participate;
 - c) the study and experimentation of innovative services for the exploitation of research results, technology transfer and financing of innovative start-ups.



- d) the promotion, creation, growth and development of new business activities and new products supporting the dynamism of innovation in the territories involved and experimenting with an innovative model;
- e) the promotion of activities for the spreading of scientific and technological culture on the territory.

Article 5

Cooperation for education, culture and advanced training

1. As part of the cooperation in teaching and training activities, the Parties declare their availability to carry out joint activities among which, in a non-exclusive way, the following:
 - a) support for the carrying out of graduation papers and projects for master's degrees graduation and research doctorates graduation;
 - b) solving exercises;
 - c) organization of visits and educational internships addressed to students;
 - d) organization of conferences, debates and seminars;
 - e) organization of university orientation and teaching activities;
 - f) cooperation in the development and promotion of activities of joint interest through national and international networks to which the Parties adhere;
 - g) organization of events, also in synergy with other institutions;
 - h) favoring internship activities regulated by specific agreements drawn on the basis of current legislation
 - i) availability to evaluate scholarships to excellent students from diaspora
 - j) availability to evaluate reduced tuition fees for students from diaspora

Article 6

Joint Steering Committee

1. For the coordination of the cooperation activities referred to in this Agreement, the Parties agree to evaluate the establishment of a joint steering committee consisting of two representatives for each Party. The Committee appoints the Chairman of the Committee; in the event of a tie vote, the oldest member among those who have been voted is appointed.
2. The Committee meets, also telematically, at one of the Parties' offices and will draw up a regulation for its operation.
3. The Committee remains in office for the duration of the Agreement and is reappointed in case of renewal of the Agreement.
4. Committee members do not receive any compensation for their membership. Any expenses for the mission of the members will be borne by the Entity of respective membership.
5. The Committee has the following tasks:
 - a) coordinates the cooperation activities;



- b) plans the interventions on a three-year basis;
- c) monitors the joint initiatives carried out in cooperation and writes regular reports on their progress to the competent bodies of the Parties.

Article 7

Operating Acts

1. The Parties agree to carry out research projects, training activities, university orientation and higher education activities, initiatives aimed at enhancing the results of scientific research and any other activities of common interest, through the stipulation of Operational Acts, identifying the scientific structures of each body involved in the project or joint initiative. Each Act must be approved by the Parties according to their national laws.

Article 8

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

1. The Parties are mutually obliged to the confidentiality constraint in regards to information, data, know-how, and the information that they will exchange during the validity and/or execution of this Agreement, with the exception of that information, data, news and decisions for which the law or an administrative or judicial order imposes an obligation to communicate and/or save the consent of the Party from which such data originate.
2. Any intellectual property right owned by a Party will remain in full ownership of the same, and should its use be allowed to the other Parties under this Agreement, this will not imply the recognition of any license or right in relation to the same, except the cases in which the transfer of this license or right is expressly provided in the Operating Acts.
3. Any intellectual property right owned by a Party may be used by the other Parties for the activities referred to in this Agreement only with the express consent of the Proprietary Party and in accordance with the rules indicated by that Party and/or contained in the Operating Acts.

Article 9

Processing of personal data

1. The Parties allow the processing of their personal data in accordance with current legislation on the subject of personal data protection; the same data may be included in databases, computer files and telematic systems only for the purposes related to this Agreement.

Article 10

Forms of cooperation

The Parties agree that this agreement shall not exclude the possibilities of other forms of cooperation with third parties.



Article 11

Responsability

National Agency of Diaspora and eCampus is not responsible for disputes that the other party may face with third parties.

Article 12

Duration, renewal procedure and right of withdrawal

1. This Agreement shall enter into force when signed by both Parties.
2. This Agreement has a duration of five years starting from the date it entered into force and may be renewed for the same period on the basis of a written Agreement between the Parties.
3. The parties may withdraw from this Agreement by communication through written notice. The Agreement is not valid six months after the other Party has accepted the withdrawal notice; withdrawing from this agreement does not produce effects on the implementation relationships existing at the time of withdrawal.

Article 13

Disputes

Any dispute in the interpretation and application of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled through consultations and negotiations between the competent authorities of the Parties.

Article 14

Registration

1. This Agreement is written in three languages, namely English, Albanian and Italian (two copies each).

FOR THE UNIVERSITY

THE DEAN

FOR THE NATIONAL AGENCY OF DIASPORA

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR