

## Memorandum of Understanding

*between*

**France Universités**

and

**CRUE**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between

Prof. Eva Alcón Soler, President of *Conferencia de Rectores de Universidades Españolas* (hereinafter "CRUE"), with registered office at Paseo de Recoletos 27, 3ª Planta, Madrid, and with CIF G -81093072, acting in her own name and on behalf of the association, by virtue of the powers attributed to it by the Statutes of the Association

on the one hand,

and

Prof. Lamri Adoui, President of *France Universités* (registered in the French Education Code as the "Conférence des Présidents d'Université"), whose office is at 23, rue Louis-le-Grand, Paris, 2nd arrondissement, acting in his own name and on behalf of the association, by virtue of the powers vested in him by the Statutes of the Association

on the other.

### **BACKGROUND**

FIRST. - Given that CRUE is a state-wide, non-profit association, formed by Spanish public and private universities, which aims to configure an agile, effective, and representative channel for Spanish Institutions that facilitates cooperation and that seeks, among other functions, to reinforce universities' social projection and their commitment to society.

As reflected in the Preamble to its statutes, CRUE promotes reflection on university purposes and problems with criteria that go beyond the interests of specific groups or sectors. Its aims, as identified in article 3, include the promotion of any functions and activities that affect Higher Education and University Research, the promotion of cooperation of Spanish Universities with each other and with analogous foreign institutions, as well as the exchange of information, the promotion of studies, reports and recommendations that result in greater and more effective cooperation.

and

SECOND. - Given that France Universités is a non-profit, public-interest association (*association loi 1901 reconnue d'utilité publique*) endowed with legal personality. An umbrella organization providing services for 118 HEIs and totalling up about 1.800.000 students (to date), France Universités is the leading operator for teaching and training, research and innovation at higher education level in France, and as such a major stakeholder for the French Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, but also one of the main interlocutors of the French National Assembly and French Senate.

It has been involved in all the major reforms of the HE system in France over the last twenty years and can therefore collect and monitor up-to-date information about international students very rapidly. In accordance with the conference statutes, it is run by a Board comprising the three members of the Executive Committee (the President and two vice-presidents), the chairpersons of the three main Councils and eleven members elected by the General Assembly from among its members. All are nominated for a period of two years renewable once.

#### **PURPOSE**

France Universités and CRUE (the Signatories), acknowledging the importance of fostering close and mutual cooperation between universities from France and Spain have jointly decided to structure dialogue between the two conferences in order to:

- promote European values and contribute to the future of our democracies and the EU, by training active, engaged and creative citizens who are aware of their shared past and able to improve their living environment;
- bolster French and Spanish participation in the European University Alliances initiative and encourage their deployment, including through effective multilingualism policies and the promotion of linguistic diversity and understanding;
- set up joint study programmes and degrees allowing for student and staff mobility in all scientific sectors and disciplines, drawing in particular on the European Erasmus+ and Research and Innovation Framework programmes;
- work together to foster a more integrated approach between the rectors' conferences of Southern and Mediterranean countries (Spain, France, Portugal, Italy and Greece);
- intensify their joint contribution to the development of the academic and research sector in Europe and the world, notably in Latin America and Africa;

- raise awareness about the need to strengthen science diplomacy actions contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

## OBJECTIVES

To fulfil the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Signatories shall:

- a) promote the role and engagement of universities in the development of students' skills and citizenship for employability and shape a common stance on lifelong learning in the context of the twin transitions;
- b) encourage participation in joint European projects that aim to improve the integration of the university systems of both countries in the European Higher Education Area, including the European Universities initiative;
- c) foster collaboration and distributed excellence through European research infrastructures;
- d) exchange best practices and ideas on how university involvement in Smart Specialisation Strategies, Regional Innovation Schemes or Interreg Europe can further stimulate research and innovation;
- e) conduct joint studies on how higher education institutions impact economically upon regional and local development, including through cross-border cooperation;
- f) coordinate actions aimed at influencing European policies of interest to the Higher Education sector, in close partnership with the European University Association (*EUA*).

## MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

A joint work programme specifying the strategic areas on which to focus action will be drawn up every three years. It will be submitted in advance to the respective Boards of Directors of France Universités and the Standing Committee of CRUE for approval. It may be amended during the 3-year period by a new decision of the governing bodies of the two parties.

In order to maintain dialogue at the highest level between the two Parties, an annual meeting of each of the two Presidents, or her or his official representative, will be organised in one country and then the other in turn. Where appropriate, this meeting will take place by videoconference.

In similar fashion, on-line meetings between the sectorial committees of CRUE and France Universités, or their representatives thereof, will be organized at least once a year.

## **RESOURCES**

Unless alternative arrangements are specifically agreed to meet particular project requirements, the Signatories shall in principle cover their own costs of implementing the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding. In any case, any activity to be implemented under the scope of this agreement is subjected to the availability of budget. For particular areas of cooperation, donor funding may be sought from other sources.

## **VALIDITY AND TERM**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force from the date of signature and shall remain in effect for a period of three (3) years. At the end of this period, it will automatically be extended for another 3-year period unless otherwise determined.

This Memorandum may be revised through the mutual agreement of both institutions and may be terminated by either party upon giving six months' written notice signed by the secretary general of the notifying party. All modifications to this agreement will be in writing, signed by both parties.

## **JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE**

The Signatories agree to create a joint committee to monitor the application of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## **ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE**

The Signatories expressly state their acceptance to be bound by all of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Signatories recognize that this statement is strictly limited to the scope described above and involves no more obligations for any of the Signatories than those evoked in this document.

In witness whereof the Signatories have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in duplicate in English, in Paris on February 19, 2025.