



**INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION**

**AGREEMENT 2012-2016**

**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITIES**

**CONSORTIUM TETHYS**

## **TITLE I – PARTNER UNIVERSITIES**

The signatory universities listed here under (Annexes in attachment):

have agreed as follows:

### **PREAMBLE**

Within the framework of the Barcelona Conference in 1995, the fifteen member states of the European Union and the twelve Mediterranean third countries have laid the foundations of a new cooperation policy, notably by creating a social, cultural, and human partnership.

**“The traditions of culture and civilization on both sides of the Mediterranean, the dialogue and the human, scientific, and technological exchanges between these cultures are key to bringing their peoples closer, enhancing mutual understanding and bettering perception of each other”.**

The idea of creating a tool to implement this inter-national and inter-university cooperation took shape as a study aimed at identifying the different countries’ needs and at developing ad hoc methodologies. The community of interests revealed the necessity of a multilateral regional cooperation (south-north, north-south and south-south) - and no longer bilateral – the main goal is the Construction of Euro-Mediterranean Area of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

Three main objectives have been set:

- 1- To implement international and common high-level training programs in domains considered priority for the Mediterranean area. Mainly concerned among these, within the scope of the Bologna Process: Bachelor’s (“Licence”, in French), Master’s curricula and Doctorates, notably to improve the readability of degrees and promote student and teacher mobility.
- 2- To develop joint research programs by creating laboratory networks and fostering researcher mobility within Doctorate programs (thesis under joint supervision), following the Bachelor and Master. The medium-term perspective is to harmonize knowledge and competence levels among partner countries’ future managers and thus contribute to strengthening the political, social and economic stability of the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- 3- To help upgrade the governance of universities, particularly in the domain of inter-university cooperation.

This interuniversity cooperation agreement follows the 2 previous ones implemented since January 2000.

## **ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE**

Signatory universities and higher education institutions hereby decide to team up and share their pedagogical and scientific resources.

To that effect, is concerned the “**Consortium des Universités euro-méditerranéennes TETHYS**” (**Euro-Mediterranean Universities Consortium TETHYS**).

Its seat is located at : Université d’Aix-Marseille - Jardin du Pharo - 58, Boulevard Charles Livon – 13284 - Marseille Cedex 07 -France.

## **ARTICLE 2 - ORGANIZATION**

**2.1** Tethys Consortium’s founding principle is that of an association of universities within which each partner acts as a full member, and equally and actively contributes to the development of academic and research programs, according to its specific sphere of expertise.

**2.2** So as to guarantee the permanence and durability of TETHYS’s activities, the coordination is placed under the responsibility of Aix-Marseille University (AMU).

**2.3** TETHYS’s functioning is ensured by:

- the President
- the Director
- a Bureau
- the Governing Board

of which roles and functions are precised in articles of Title II.

## **TITLE II – TETHYS’s FUNCTIONING**

### **ARTICLE 3 - The PRESIDENCY**

#### **3.1 Appointment of the President**

The President is appointed by the President of Aix-Marseille University.

#### **3.2 Duration of term**

The duration of his term is limited to duration term of the President of AMU.

#### **3.3 Vacancy of presidency:**

Should the President temporarily be unable to perform his duties (which cannot exceed 3 months), the President of the Consortium designates his alternate, after advise of the President of AMU, for the length of his unavailability.

In the event that the President should definitely be unable to perform his duties in office or should resign, the President of AMU shall provide for his replacement.

## **ARTICLE 4 TETHYS's GOVERNING BOARD**

### **4.1 Composition**

The Governing Board is composed of the Presidents or Rectors of each partner university, or of their representatives as well as the Director.

### **4.2 Meeting Procedure**

It meets at the call of President or upon written request of the absolute majority of its members.

### **4.3 Agenda**

It is drawn up by the President in office. Questions may be submitted by half of the Governing Board's. They will then be listed in the agenda.

### **4.4 Competence of Governing Board**

**4.4.1** The Governing Board defines Tethys's teaching, research and innovation policy. The function of the Governing Board is to ensure that the Agreement is correctly implemented. It constitutes in that sense a very important authority between all Partners. It is a consultation body between the Partners in case of difficulty or litigation.

### **4.5 Functioning of Governing Board**

**4.5.1** The Governing Board meets once a year, at the call of the President who draws up the agenda

**4.5.2** The Governing Board meets at a venue chosen by the President among the Consortium members' different proposals.

**4.5.3** The invitations and agendas are sent to the Board members two weeks prior to the meeting date.

#### **4.5.4 Deliberations**

The Board's deliberations are held by absolute majority of the present or represented members. The President shall ascertain that the quorum (half plus one) is reached before holding the meeting. A member of the Board, if unable to attend, may give proxy to another Board member to vote in his stead. A Board member may not be given more than two proxies.

The President may invite any person whose presence he deems useful in relation to a particular agenda item to participate in a session, with a consultative voice.

The ballot is held according to a procedure adapted to the nature of the question on the agenda. This procedure is left to the discretion of the President, who may ask for the assembly's prior consent. However, if requested by one of the members, the vote takes place by secret ballot.

A partner's non-attendance or non-representation at two consecutive Board meetings shall be submitted to the Board by the President in office. After deliberation, the Governing Board, with the Bureau's advice, may suspend or withdraw the institution's right to participate.

All the decisions shall be transcribed in the session's minutes, which shall, within three months following the meeting, be sent by the President or the Director to all of the partners for validation.

## **ARTICLE 5 – THE BUREAU**

### **5.1 Implementation of the Bureau**

The President is assisted by a Bureau elected by the Governing Board, upon the President's proposal and after consultation with the concerned partners.

Composition of the Bureau:

The bureau is presided over by the president of the consortium and is composed of a qualified representative for each partner country involved in this agreement. This representative is appointed by partners of this country.

TETHYS's Director participates in the Bureau's work.  
The Bureau's members serve for a three-year renewable term.

### **5.2 Bureau's Competences and Functioning**

The Bureau assists the President in preparing the Governing Board's deliberations and carrying out its decisions. It proposes to the Governing Board the strategy for TETHYS Consortium. Its role is purely consultative. The bureau checks implementation of the agreement and progress of the projects.

The President, if he deems it useful, may refer to the Bureau for any question relative to Consortium and entrust certain missions to one or several members of the Bureau.

The Bureau shall meet (face-to-face, through Web-conferencing or video-conferencing, or via any other available means of communication) at the call of the President, and as often as needed. No quorum in attendance is required.

The Bureau is presided over by the President. The President may invite to participate in a work session any person whose presence he deems useful.

## **ARTICLE 6 – THE DIRECTOR**

### **6.1 Appointment**

TETHYS's Director is appointed by the President of Aix-Marseille University. His term is limited to the term of the President of AMU.

### **6.2 Competence**

The Director assists TETHYS's President in implementing the decisions taken by the Governing Board.

He assists him in the budget preparation, account for actions follow-up and financial impact as well.

He participates in the different Board meetings with a consultative voice, during which he will act as secretary.

He works in liaison with the financial and accounting services of Aix-Marseille University.

He is responsible for initiation and promotion of network actions.

## **ARTICLE 7 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Management**

It is carried out by Aix-Marseille University.

### **7.2 TETHYS's budget**

It is financed by:

- AMU's budget dedicated part
- subsidies from public or private organizations
- funding from national, European and international cooperation programs
- any resources coming from TETHYS's activities

This budget provides for:

- the proper functioning of TETHYS
- the purchase of functioning equipment and media
- the payment of expenses

### **7.3 Authorizing Officer (Ordonnateur)**

The President of Aix-Marseille University acts as Authorizing Officer. He shall give authorization to President of the Consortium for signature.

## **ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENTS TO TETHYS PARTNERSHIPS**

**8.1** TETHYS Consortium shall accept membership applications from any partner accepting all the terms and conditions of the agreement in effect, subject to approval by half of its members.

**8.2** Any new membership request will be presented to Governing Board. If there is no objection, the application shall be accepted.

**8.3** All TETHYS members shall be allowed to leave the Network, after notifying the President and Governing Board at least six months before the effective date of the withdrawal.

## **ARTICLE 9 - MODIFICATIONS TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT**

Any modification to the present agreement shall be submitted to deliberation by the Governing Board, which shall be allowed to decide upon it only after approval of the absolute majority of its members.

## **ARTICLE 10 - DURATION**

The present agreement - valid for a length of five renewable Years- shall be effective on the date indicated at the end of this document.

Its renewal, under the shape of a new convention, shall be signed by the members one year before the expiry date.

**ANNEXE I**

**2012 - 2016 AGREEMENT SIGNATORY PARTNERS UNIVERSITIES**