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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Between

University of West Attica, Dept of Public Health Policy, Greece

And

The Institute of Public Health of Montenegro, Montenegro

The **Department of Public Health Policy of the University of West Attica in Greece (PHP/UNIWA)** and the **Institute of Public Health of Montenegro, Montenegro (IPHMNE)**, hereafter referred to as "Parties", guided by the willingness to develop fruitful cooperation between them within the areas of their expertise and competence in the field of public health,

AGREE as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties shall encourage cooperation between them in the areas of graduate and post-graduate education and training, scientific research and public health activities.

The Parties shall cooperate on the basis of equality between Parties, mutual benefit, equal opportunity of genders, sharing of common research results, respect of confidentiality as appropriate, and protection of intellectual property rights according to medical and scientific ethics, international rules, and European Union directives and regulations.

ARTICLE 2

The cooperation of the Parties focuses on the scientific areas of Epidemiological Surveillance, Outbreak investigation and Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases (VBD) and can include the following:

- Bilateral exchange of PHP/UNIWA - IPHMNE staff for study visits, including the possible provision of sabbatical terms and ERASMUS collaboration (if/where applicable).



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- Collaboration on graduate and post-graduate education and training, design and development of training activities, preparation of educational material, educational guides, management systems, evaluation tools, etc.
- Collaboration in National, European and International research projects related to the subjects of public health and epidemiology.
- Collaboration on public health activities, e.g. prevention and control activities
- Joint promotion of educational, scientific and administrative cooperation through the organization of joint scientific activities (e.g. conferences, workshops, events).
- Joint organization of public awareness activities on infectious diseases with cross-border transmission in the Mediterranean region.
- Collaboration in seeking funding and technical assistance from the European Union, Mediterranean and other National or International Organisations.

The specific areas of cooperation shall especially encompass the following: field epidemiology, epidemiological surveillance, outbreak investigation, epidemic intelligence and preparedness, infectious disease epidemiology, prevention and control, vector-borne diseases, immunization and child public health.

Areas of future scientific collaboration between the two parties: public health microbiology, non-communicable disease epidemiology, prevention and control, health promotion, environmental health, nutrition and nutrition disorders, food and water safety, social determinants of health, health economics, health systems management, strategic planning and public health policy making.

ARTICLE 3

To implement this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties will adopt specific Action Programmes describing the activities to be carried out. The Action Programmes will be agreed by the collaborating scientists of the Parties and approved by the Joint Steering Committee defined in Article 4, on condition that necessary funds are available.

ARTICLE 4

The Parties will set up a Joint Steering Committee to define priorities of the collaboration, approve specific Action Programmes, and monitor progress. Decisions will be made on the basis of consensus.



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The Joint Steering Committee will include two (2) to three (3) representatives from each Party and will be coordinated by two Scientific Coordinators: Professor Emeritus Panagiotis Panagiotopoulos and Professor Dragan Laušević, one from each Party (see Annex).

The members of the Joint Steering Committee and the Scientific Coordinators representing each Party will be appointed by the respective Parties.

The Joint Steering Committee will meet on a regular basis, not less than once a year, as well as according to need.

It is possible that in the meetings of the Joint Steering Committee specific experts are invited as consultants depending on the subjects under discussion.

The meetings of the Joint Steering Committee can take place in Athens, in Podgorica, in another commonly agreed place or through teleconference.

ARTICLE 5

This Memorandum of Understanding, the Action Programmes and all activities undertaken will be implemented in accordance to national laws of the respective countries, and rules and regulations of the respective Parties.

ARTICLE 6

The present Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect on the date of its signature. The Memorandum of Understanding shall remain effective for a period of three (3) years, and shall automatically be extended for an additional period of three (3) years, unless terminated by either Party.

ARTICLE 7

Any amendment to this Memorandum of Understanding should be agreed and signed by the legal representatives of both Parties.

This MoU applies upon its signature by the representatives of the two parties and may be terminated without notice upon the written report of one of the two parties.



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ANNEX

In the first period during which the present Memorandum of Understanding is in effect, the following representatives of the two Parties will constitute the Joint Steering Committee:

*Department of Public Health Policy,
University of West Attica, Greece*

a/ Professor Emeritus Panagiotis
Panagiotopoulos as Scientific Coordinator
b/ Assoc. Professor Eleni Patsoula
c/ Dr. Dimitrios Papamichail, epidemiologist

Institute of Public Health of Montenegro

a/ Professor Dragan Laušević, MD, MSc, PhD,
epidemiologist as Scientific Coordinator
b/ dr Aleksandar Obradović, epidemiologist
c/ dr Nebojša Sekulić, epidemiologist

Signed in Athens, Greece, and Podgorica, Montenegro, in two original copies in English.

Athens, 9/02/2024

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA, GREECE**

**FOR THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF
MONTENEGRO**

Rector of UNIWA

Director of IPH of Montenegro



Panagiotis E. Kaldis
Professor

Dragan Laušević
Professor

Head of Dept. of Public Health Policy

Tonia Vassilakou
Professor