MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
BELCO ALLIANCE INSTITUTIONS

FONTYS UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (FONTYS), THE NETHERLANDS
LILLEBAELT ACADEMY, University of Applied Sciences (LILLEBAELT), DENMARK
BBA INSEE ECOLE DE COMMERCE EUROPEENNE BORDEAUX-LYON (BBA INSEE ECE), FRANCE
COLOGNE BUSINESS SCHOOL (CBS), GERMANY
AND
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, GREECE

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between BELCO Alliance core members (Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Lillebaelt academy University of Applied Sciences, BBA INSEE ECE and Cologne Business School), referred to collectively as the “Parties”, the herein referred to as the "Alliance", or individually as "Party") and University of Patras, wishing to enhance relations between the higher education institution (HEI) and to develop academic and cultural exchange in the areas of education, research, and other activities, agree to collaborate and work together toward the internationalization of higher education.

Parties mutually recognize the significant set of shared values, missions, goals and constituencies of their organizations and have a common and proactive interest in creating new and vital intellectual bridges between institutions involved in the Alliance in the following areas:

a. Exchange of students
b. Exchange of faculty members
c. Joint academic projects (curriculum development) and raising funds for them through EU projects
d. Research activities
e. Organization of joint seminars, conferences and other relevant academic activities

The areas of cooperation will include any program offered by either institution which is felt to be desirable and feasible for the development and strengthening of cooperative relationships between the institutions. However, any specific program shall be subject to mutual consent, availability of funds, and approval of each institution.

The terms of such mutual assistance and cooperation shall be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the appropriate representatives of the BELCO Alliance and University of Patras prior to the initiation of any particular program or activity.

The present agreement articulates the intentions of the Parties to work cooperatively and does not create any legally binding commitments. Should the Parties agree at any stage to undertake specific joint projects that are legally binding, they shall conclude separate written agreements to govern the specific project or collaboration.
This is a non-exclusive Memorandum of Understanding among the Parties that preserves the right of each to work independently or with other organizations and to raise funds from any source of its choice.
The present Memorandum may be modified, amended or supplemented in writing at any time by the written initiative from the signatories of either party, subject to acceptance by the other Parties.

**Membership – Admittance to the Alliance**

Membership in the Alliance is open to any higher education organization in and/or outside Europe that has as a primary purpose the collaboration within areas related to the Alliance and approved by all Parties. Membership is also open to relevant triple helix participants (education, corporate and government institutions) because of their important roles in Parties’ education activities and program(s). Such organizations can become parties at any time by signing a Memorandum of Understanding approved and signed by all Parties to the Alliance.

This Memorandum shall commence on the date of signature and be in effect for an initial period of five (5) years. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving a six-month notice in writing of such intent. Otherwise the Memorandum shall be automatically renewed from year to year.

This Memorandum shall be executed in English and every institution will have a hard copy of it.

In witness whereof, the Parties, each acting through their duly authorized representatives warrant that it has the full authority to sign and enter into this Agreement on behalf of the institutions that each purports to represent.

For the BELCO Alliance

[name]

On behalf of the BELCO Alliance Members hereby signed

Name: Maurice CUYPERS
Chairman
BELCO Alliance

Date: 14-01-2017

For the University of Patras

[name]

Name: Professor Nikolaos K. Karamanos
Position: Vice Rector
for Academic and International Affairs
Institution: University of Patras
Country: Greece

Date: 20-03-2017