



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal University of São Carlos (Brazil) and *Universiteit Gent* (Belgium) for the promotion of academic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation

The Federal University of São Carlos, with registered offices on São Carlos campus, at *Rodovia* Washington Luís, km 235, in São Carlos, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, represented by its Rector, Prof. Ana Beatriz de Oliveira, Ph.D., and *Universiteit Gent* ('UGent'), a public institution with legal personality, duly organised and existing under the special (Flemish) decree of 26 June 1991 on Ghent University and the University Centre of Antwerp (Belgian Official Gazette of 29 June 1991, as amended afterwards), having its registered office at 9000 Ghent, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, with company registration number 248.015.142 (Belgium), represented by prof. dr. Rik Van de Walle, rector, by delegation pursuant to the Board of Governors' decision of June 4, 2021 ('UGent'),

WHEREAS both Institutions are interested in the development of Higher Education, scientific knowledge and research, and technology,

WHEREAS they wish to formally establish an institutional relationship between them, aiming to promote their continuous strengthening, enhancement and advancement by jointly developing academic, scientific, technical and cultural activities,

ENTER INTO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, hereinafter referred to as "MOU", which will be governed by the following terms and conditions:

SECTION 1: The objectives of this MOU are as follows:

- I. To establish an institutional relationship between the Parties, so as to enable the joint development of training, research, technical and cultural programs, projects and activities.
- II. To stipulate the methods and means to carry out such programs, projects and activities, especially the development of research, training activities and academic exchanges.

SECTION 2: The accomplishment of the objectives hereof may consist in the following forms of cooperation:

- I. Joint development of research programs, projects and activities in equivalent, similar or matching research areas between the Parties, as well as regarding scientific topics of their mutual interest.
- II. Exchange of faculty members, researchers, students, and technical and administrative staff to participate in training activities, internships, visits and other activities of academic, scientific and technical improvement.

- III. Assignment and exchange of scientific, technical and cultural information, as well as joint production of publications.
- IV. Co-organization of academic, scientific and cultural events, *e.g.*, conferences, symposia, seminars and colloquia.
- V. Other academic, scientific and cultural programs, projects and activities that the Parties may mutually wish to develop, in accord with their respective institutional purposes.

SECTION 3: Subject to availability of funds, the development of programs, projects and activities listed in the previous section will be formalized by means of the execution of addenda or annexes to this MOU or specific cooperation agreements that shall explicitly mention it.

Such addenda, annexes and specific cooperation agreements shall set forth the following: purpose and/or objectives of the specific program, project or activity; rights and responsibilities of both Parties; financial resources for the development of the respective object; duration of the corresponding agreement, as well as procedures to amend and terminate it; settlement of disputes; other appropriate, relevant terms and conditions regarding the respective purpose, *e.g.*, specific steps or forms to pursue it, and provisions on intellectual property rights, confidentiality of information and publications.

SECTION 4: Participation in any program, project or activity under this MOU does not generate any formal employer-employee relationship between any person from either Party and the other Party.

SECTION 5: Unless otherwise agreed in an amendment hereto, this MOU does not create any financial obligation from either Party to the other. Each Party shall bear the costs of its own effective participation in the development hereof.

The Parties may carry out programs, projects and activities hereunder using funds granted from agencies and organizations devoted to funding research and development, as well as from companies and other private and public institutions.

SECTION 6: This MOU is valid as from the date of the last signature by both Parties and will remain in force for five (5) years. The duration hereof may be extended by means of a duly signed amendment.

SECTION 7: Any amendment hereto shall be agreed in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of both Parties.

SECTION 8: Any Party can terminate this MOU at any time by giving the other Party a reasoned termination notice in writing at least three (3) months in advance, along with return receipt. In the event of termination hereof, eventually ongoing activities will be duly concluded.

SECTION 9: Questions and disputes arising from the interpretation or execution of this MOU will be friendly settled by both Parties. In case an amicable solution is not possible, the parties agree to submit the remaining disputes to the authorities and/or competent courts in the country of the defendant.

SECTION 10: The Parties guarantee to respect human rights. Each of the Parties may terminate this MOU with immediate effect if the other Party is involved in a serious or systematic violation of human rights.

Both Parties sign this MOU in four identical copies, two in Portuguese and two in English. In case of discussion, the English version prevails.

São Carlos, São Paulo (Brazil), 11 JUN. 2024 Ghent (Belgium),


Prof. Ana Beatriz de Oliveira, Ph.D.
Rector
Federal University of São Carlos


Prof. Rik Van de Walle
Rector
Universiteit Gent



29/05/2024