

# EU-CONEXUS Joint Minor Programmes Agreement

July 2022



**EU CONEXUS**  
European University for Smart  
Urban Coastal Sustainability



Co-funded by the  
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## Joint Minor Programmes Agreement

Between

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hereafter referred to as LRUniv,

and represented by its President Jean-Marc Ogier,

(2) Agricultural University of Athens, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Iera Odos 75, 118 55 Athens, Greece,

hereafter referred to as AUA,

and represented by its Rector Spyridon Kintzios,

(3) Fundación Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Calle Quevedo 2, 46001, Valencia, Spain,

hereafter referred to as UCV,

and represented by its Rector Jose Manuel Pagan Agullo,

(4) Klaipėdos Universitetas, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Herkaus Manto 84, 92294, Klaipėda, Lithuania

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and represented by its Rector Arturas Razbadauskas,

(5) Sveučilište u Zadru, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Ulica Mihovila Pavlinovica 1, PO box: 000, 23 000, Zadar, Croatia,

hereafter referred to as UNIZD,

and represented by its Rector Dijana Vican,

(6) Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții București and Văcăreanu, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Lacul Tei 122-124 Sector 2, 020396, Bucharest, Romania,

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and represented by its Rector Radu Vacareanu,

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hereafter referred to as SETU,

and represented by its President Veronica Campbell,

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hereafter referred to as UROS,

and represented by its Rector Wolfgang Schareck,

(9) Frederick University, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based 7 Yianni Frederickou Street, Pallouriotisa, PO box. 1036, Nicosia, Cyprus,

hereafter referred to as FredU,  
and represented by its Rector George Demosthenous,

hereafter referred to individually as ‘partner’ and collectively as ‘partners’.

## Preamble

The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) is a transnational European higher education and research institution that covers the smart urban sustainable coastal development from a global point of view. EU-CONEXUS is formed of 9 European universities, which are located in France, Greece, Spain, Lithuania, Croatia, Romania, Ireland, Germany and Cyprus.

Universities and research institutions have a central role to play in promoting the ‘Blue Economy’ and ‘Blue Growth’ and to contribute to the skills and competences of the graduates who can work in a complex and challenging labour market. A new approach is needed regarding the organisation of studies and research, therefore, 9 universities joined together to merge their strengths and know-how in interdisciplinary short-term and degree programmes and to offer the students to study at an international inter-campus European University.

### Article 1: Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to concur with the implementation and management of EU-CONEXUS Minor Programmes, which are described in the Course Catalogues. The Course Catalogue of each Minor programme is the subject of annual updates for the next academic year and to be approved by the Academic Council by the 1<sup>st</sup> February.

The EU-CONEXUS Minor programme offer consists of but is not limited to the following Minor programmes

1. Minor in Blue Economy and Growth,
2. Minor in Coastal Development Sustainable Maritime Tourism.

A Minor programme (sometimes called specialisation) is a specific interdisciplinary set of courses in the same or different field of studies, that undergraduate students select freely and combine their own set of courses choosing 30 ECTS throughout their studies.

EU-CONEXUS joint Minor programmes (hereafter ‘programme’) aim to construct flexible, international, multidisciplinary curricula and to receive up-to-date competencies that are highly required in the labour market.

A Minor programme consists of the courses offered by partners of EU-CONEXUS.

### Article 2: Basis

This Agreement has been prepared on the basis of:

- Academic Council’s decisions approved by the Governing Board of EU-CONEXUS.
- The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) of the European Higher Education Area and principles of automatic mutual recognition. ECTS allows credits taken at one higher education institution to be counted towards a qualification studied for at another.

ECTS credits represent the volume of learning based on defined learning outcomes and their associated workload.

### Article 3: Structure and Content of the Programme

Each Minor programme is focused on five thematic areas (sectors); each of them is composed of topics. A topic is a field of study that could be comprised of one or more courses with similar or compatible contents.

A course refers to a series of lectures, discussions, or other lectures on a particular subject. The courses per sector, the course description and the sector description are presented in the Course Catalogue, as well as the course activities, soft skills and prerequisites.

A course lasts one semester and is measured in European credits (ECTS). All courses of EU-CONEXUS joint Minor programme consist of 6 ECTS. The partner, who offers a course belonging to one of the Minor programmes, is responsible for the course learning outcomes, teaching and quality assurance based on institutional practices.

To complete a Minor programme, students must have chosen five courses (30 ECTS), from minimum two sectors, and at least from three different universities (one of them can be their home university, however maximum two courses could be selected from their home institution), by the end of their undergraduate studies. If all the prerequisites are accomplished, a special reference shall be included in the Diploma Supplement.

Students can follow Minors as part of or additionally to their study curricula. Besides, it is allowed to take courses without accomplishing completely the 30 ECTS Minor programme.

Students can choose freely the sectors of their interest or the ones most relevant to their undergraduate studies.

### Article 4: Coordination of the Programme

#### Article 4.1: Coordinators of Minor programmes

Each Minor programme is coordinated by one university (Coordinator). The Academic Council nominates the Coordinator university and contact person on the proposal made by partners for at least 2 academic years. The change of the Coordinator can be offered by the Academic Council and by the partners, participating in the Minor programme.

The Coordinator is responsible for

- overall implementation of the programme,
- preparing Course catalogue of the programme (including or eliminating courses, assembling of final Minor programme catalogue, coordination among the teachers for content, etc.) and reporting to the Academic Council,
- initiation, review and update of the Minor programmes offer, upon the agreement of all partners,
- coordination between sectors,
- teaching collaboration,
- quality assurance and follow-up,
- inter-programmes coordination for joint decisions such as Academic calendar, Guidelines for professors of Minor programmes, etc.

Every academic year, there would be an end-of-year meeting managed by the Coordinator with Minor courses teachers to analyse the implementation of the Minor programme.

#### Article 4.2: Minor Officers

Each partner shall appoint a Minor Officer for the coordination within and between the nine universities of EU-CONEXUS. The Minor Officer has an administrative role in fulfilling the following tasks:

##### OUTGOING STUDENTS:

- To present and promote the Minor programmes among the students and answer any queries,
- To run the call for applications for students and the selection process at the home university and to nominate the students,
- To facilitate, coordinate and track the signing of learning agreements between the institutions,
- To perform tasks necessary to give access to the Smart Campus tools to the students and to assist them in case of any technical problems,
- To gather and exchange information about the timetable of classes and exams, and local holidays, among the Minor Officers and students,
- To monitor the performance of students in the Minor courses, track statistics and prepare reports,
- To track and advise the local students about the completion of the Minor programme.

##### INCOMING STUDENTS:

- To assist incoming students and answer queries related to the offered courses and enrollment at the university,
- To exchange information about the grades of incoming students and issue Transcripts of Records.

##### GENERAL:

- To organise the welcome meeting and any other events for the students,
- To perform any administrative work related to the coordination of the Minor programmes and communication among the partners, the General coordinators, the teaching staff and the students,
- To prepare and implement satisfaction surveys and perform other quality assurance procedures,
- To prepare reports and reviews for the stakeholders (teachers, administration).

#### Article 5: Academic Calendars

For all courses within the Minor programmes, a synchronised academic calendar shall be used. The academic calendar for the upcoming academic year shall be confirmed by the Academic Council before 31 May.

It is recommended to allocate at least 2 time slots for Minor courses, not earlier than from 15:30 h CET, preferably on Wednesday and Friday, and, if more teaching hours are needed, on Monday.

#### Article 6: Language of Teaching

Courses will be taught in English.

Teaching staff will have to demonstrate a minimum B2 English level. Support and training will be made available for raising this English level to C1.

## Article 7: Students Quota per Partner

A minimum of 10 students is necessary for a course to be launched, unless the host university voluntarily agrees to launch the course even if the number of nominated students is lower than 10.

Upon the availability and the consent of the host institution, the maximum number in the course is announced before each call, where each partner has an equal number of places (students quota). It is recommended to offer at least 27 places in the course (3 places per partner).

At the end of the call, places not used by some partners shall be redistributed among other partners, upon an agreement of all Minor Officers.

Minor Officers will have a coordination meeting at the end of each call to take any necessary decisions before the communication of the results to the students.

## Article 8: Student Administration via Mobility Programme

### Article 8.1: Timeline

The timeline for the organisation of the Minor programme and the selection of the students is decided by the EU-CONEXUS Minor Officers. The call for each semester will define the timeframe of the following steps:

- information to students about the Call for application,
- student application deadline (to submit applications at home university to local Minor Officer), which can differ at each partner,
- student selection by home university and submission of the nominations,
- coordination meeting of Minor Officers and acceptance of the nominations,
- communicating the acceptance to the students, by home Minor Officer,
- signing of Learning Agreements,
- deadline for possible changes in the selected courses or withdrawals made by students (which will be, generally, 2 weeks after the beginning of the semester).

### Article 8.2: Eligibility and Admission Requirements

Minor programmes and their courses are open for applications of all Bachelor and 'one-cycle' degree programme students (flexible curricula) of EU-CONEXUS.

Applicants have to demonstrate a B2 English level, which should be verified by the home institution.

Additional prerequisites may be applied by the home institution and/or the scholarship programme.

Applicants must meet the prerequisites of prior knowledge of the chose(n) course(s) as indicated in the Minor catalogue, which should be verified by the Home Minor Officer and course teacher.

### Article 8.3: Selection Procedure and Criteria

A Selection committee will be set up at each partner following internal regulations, and it shall evaluate applications submitted to the home university. It is recommended the committee includes the Minor Officer, representatives of faculty/department, local student board and international office.

The partners agree to apply common students' selection criteria as described in Table 3 and 4 and guarantee a transparent and non-discriminative selection procedure.

**Table 3.** Selection criteria for students to enter the Minor programmes (that is, when they apply for the first semester of their Minor courses)

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Academic performance – average grades from last semester (Grade Point Average, GPA), or any way in which the home university usually measures the academic performance for mobility programmes | 50%<br>(100% GPA = 50 pts)      |
| English level – the way of evaluating the level can be up to the home university   | 10%<br>(C1 – 5 pts C2 – 10 pts) |
| Motivation – verified for example by a motivational letter or an interview   | 30%                             |
| Active participation in local international activities and EU-CONEXUS local or international activities (buddy, ESN, EU-CONEXUS Student Board, working groups, etc.)                           | 10%                             |

**Table 4.** Selection criteria for students who continue the Minor programmes (for 2<sup>nd</sup> and consecutive semesters)

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Academic performance – average grades from last semester (Grade Point Average, GPA), or any way in which the home university usually measures the academic performance for mobility programmes | 50%<br>(100% GPA = 50 pts)      |
| English level – the way of evaluating the level can be up to the home university   | 10%<br>(C1 – 5 pts C2 – 10 pts) |
| Performance in previous Minor courses and motivation   | 30%                             |
| Active participation in local international activities and EU-CONEXUS local or international activities (buddy, ESN, EU-CONEXUS Student Board, working groups, etc.)                           | 10%                             |

Students who are in the last year of their Bachelor studies and are missing only one or two courses to complete the Minor, will be given the priority in the selected courses, disregarding their final score on the ranking list.

During running the selection process at each sending university, it is recommended ranking all applications and keeping a 'waiting list' of those who are outside of the university students quota (3 or 4), in case there are spots left and redistributed during the coordination meeting at the end of the call.

The results of the selection shall be available to the applicants. Each applicant has the right to address to the chairperson of the Selection committee a request for revision and explanation of the selection results within 5 working days after the date of their announcement. The chairperson of the Selection committee examines the motivation of the request for revision within 5 working days and can refuse this request by providing a reasoned appeal with the selection decision and organise a new meeting of the Selection committee.

#### Article 7.4: Mobility and Credit Recognition

Each EU-CONEXUS course given by a partner university is considered as learning mobility exchange (similar to Erasmus+), is subject to academic recognition and transfer of credits, and is to be included in the Diploma Supplement to prove an international curriculum. A student, taking a course from the Minor programme at a partner university, is considered a participant of academic mobility with all the rights and obligations (similar to Erasmus+), despite the type of mobility (virtual, blended or physical).

The Minor programmes involve three different possible mobility schemes:

- virtual mobility,



- blended mobility (students follow virtual courses and a 1-2-week physical practical session),
- physical mobility: those students accepted for Erasmus mobility at the host university which offers the selected Minor course.

ECTS recognition is based on learning agreements.

A student has double status at sending university if s/he (1) studies at home university and (2) attends virtual or blended mobility courses at host university. At the host university, the student is registered as a virtual mobility student and can obtain the number of credits of the attended courses.

The student can be on virtual or blended mobility at more than one university during the same semester. For this, two or more learning agreements are established. It is recommended to take one course per semester, but there is no limitation on the number of courses to be taken.

The partners shall follow the principles and procedures as described in the ECTS Guide issued by the European Commission ([https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/education/ects/users-guide/docs/ects-users-guide\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/education/ects/users-guide/docs/ects-users-guide_en.pdf)) before, during and after the credit mobility.

At the end of mobility, Transcript of Records shall be sent to the student and his/her Minor Officer within a reasonable period.

The grading scales of the nine universities of EU-CONEXUS and their translation into the ECTS grading system are as follows:

**Table 4.** Grading scale system

| ECTS description   | Exceptional | Excellent | Very good | Good      | Sufficient | Fail     |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| ECTS Grade   | A           | B         | C         | D         | E          | F        |
| Percentage of successful students normally achieving the grade | 10%         | 25%       | 30%       | 25%       | 10%        | --       |
| LRUniv (France)  | 20-18       | 17.9-16   | 15.9-13   | 12.9-11.0 | 10.9-10    | <10      |
| AUA (Greece)   | 10-9.0      | 8         | 7         | 6         | 5          | <5       |
| UCV (Spain)  | 10          | 9.9-9     | 8.9-7     | 6.9-6     | 5.9-5      | <5       |
| KU (Lithuania)   | 10          | 9         | 8-7.0     | 6         | 5          | <5       |
| UNIZD (Croatia)  | 5           | 4         | 3         | 2         | 2          | <2       |
| UTCB (Romania)   | 10          | 9         | 8-7.0     | 6         | 5          | <5       |
| UROS (Germany)   | 1.0-1.3     | 1.7-2.3   | 2.7-3.3   | 3.7-4.0   | 3.7-4.0    | 5.0      |
| SETU (Ireland)   | 80-100      | 70-80     | 60-70     | 50-60     | 40-50      | <40      |
| FredU (Cyprus)   | 10 (86-100) | 8 (76-85) | 7 (66-75) | 6 (56-65) | 5 (50-55)  | 0 (0-49) |

## Article 8: Financial Arrangements

### Article 8.1: General Financial Management

The partners are committed to use their existing institutional resources to create and maintain the Minor programmes. The partners agree that the teaching costs of a course are covered by the 'host' institution which offers the course.

### Article 8.2: Tuition Fees

The partners agree that no additional tuition fees are imposed for any student at the host university.

Students that obtain Bachelor ECTS through the recognition of EU-CONEXUS Minor courses will not pay additional fees for their Bachelor programme at their home university.

If a Minor programme is additional to the ECTS load of a Bachelor or 'one-cycle' degree programme, the additional courses of the Minor programme are free of charge to all students regardless of the fees of their main study programme at their home university.

### Article 8.3: Financing Physical Mobility

Physical mobility of the students shall be co-financed by the home university, using Erasmus+ KA131, EU-CONEXUS projects or any other funds.

## Article 9: Intellectual Property Rights

Results are owned by the party that generates them. In case results are generated from work carried out jointly by two or more parties, those results shall be jointly owned. The joint owners shall agree on a joint ownership agreement on the allocation and terms of the exercise of their joint ownership, in compliance with their obligations under this Agreement.

## Article 10: Legal Clauses

The present Agreement shall come into effect on the date the last party signs and will be valid until 31 August 2026. At the end of the agreed term, the parties agree to provide an assessment of their cooperation activities. The agreement can be terminated or updated under the proposal of the Academic Council or by any partner with prior notice of six months.

For La Rochelle Université  
President

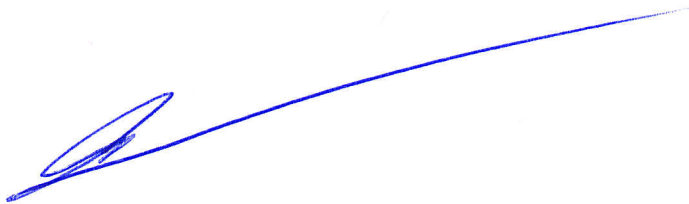


Par direction des études et de la Recherche  
et administration de l'Institut BODI

Jean-Marc Ogier

Jean-Marc Wallet

For Agricultural University of Athens  
Rector

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end, with a small, circular flourish at the beginning.

Spyridon Kintzios

For Fundación Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir  
Rector

24363788A  
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G97025787)

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Jose Manuel Pagán Agulló

For Klaipėdos Universitetas

Rector



Arturas Razbadauskas

For Sveučilište u Zadru



Dijana Čikan

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For Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții București and Văcăreanu

Rector

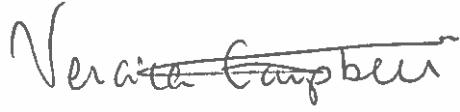


Radu Vacareanu



For South East Technological University

President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style. A horizontal line is drawn across the middle of the signature, crossing through the word "Campbell".

Veronica Campbell

For Universität Rostock

Rector

*Wolfgang Schareck 10.8.2022*

Wolfgang Schareck

For Frederick University

Rector

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Demosthenous", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Demosthenous