

EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in SmUCS Agreement

September 2024



EU CONEXUS
European University for Smart
Urban Coastal Sustainability



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

TABLE OF CONTENT

Glossary	3
PREAMBLE	6
Article 1: Scope.....	6
Article 1.1: Background.....	6
Article 1.2: Key features of the programme	7
Article 2: Structure of the programme.....	8
Article 3: Itineraries	9
Article 4: Micro-credentials certificates	10
Article 5: Organisational structures and responsibilities	10
Article 5.1: Governing bodies	10
Article 5.2: General Coordinator.....	10
Article 5.3: EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials Officers	10
Article 5.4: Obligation of the partners.....	11
Article 5.5: Coordination of the courses and teaching collaboration	11
Article 6: Student administration	12
Article 6.1: Enrolment procedure	12
Article 6.2: Admission requirements	13
Article 6.3: Selection	13
Article 6.4: Final nomination list.....	13
Article 6.5: Registration and enrolment	14
Article 6.6: Resignations and waiting list.....	14
Article 7: Students' rights and responsibilities	14
Article 8: Assessment	15
Article 9: Financial Arrangements	15
Article 9.1: Programme cost and fees.....	15
Article 10: Promotion of the programme.....	16
Article 11: Legal Clauses	16
Article 11.1: Duration of the agreement and amendments	16
Article 11.2: Termination by individual partners	16
Article 11.3: Dispute resolution	17
Article 11.4: Intellectual property rights.....	17
Article 11.5: Protection of personal data.....	17
Article 11.6: Force majeure	17

Glossary

EU-CONEXUS AISBL – the international non-profit association (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif – AISBL), created under Belgian law for the administration of EU-CONEXUS joint activities and/or procedures.

EU-CONEXUS application platform – an online platform used for application management of the students applying for micro-credentials: <https://apply.eu-conexus.eu/>

EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (Micro-credentials programme) - a lifelong learning programme, created by EU-CONEXUS Alliance, aimed at equipping students with essential extracurricular competencies and skills.

Guidelines for students and professors – documents compiling information about the rules, rights, responsibilities and tips about the Micro-credentials programme, written in an accessible, comprehensible language. Divided into two documents, separately for students and for professors.

Helpdesk - a group of IT experts involved in the support of the online solutions and management of online platforms used for EU-CONEXUS activities.

Home university – university to which a student is formally enrolled.

Host university – university being responsible for giving classes on a specific topic/micro-credential. Responsible for providing the teaching staff, running classes and assessment, giving the marks and providing the certificates to the participants passing the learning unit.

Intake – a period, when the application process for micro-credentials is open for students.

KPI – Key Performance Indicator – a goal number, in this case, of students to be enrolled in Micro-credentials, during the period of project.

Micro-credential - a recognised proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience.

Micro-credentials catalogue - a document compiling the information on Micro-credentials in SmUCS, containing the Micro-credentials cards.

Micro-credential card - a document containing information on each of Micro-credentials in SmUCS. Created by professors, meeting the requirements of European Commission on content of micro-credentials.

Micro-credential certificate – a proof of passing the course (learning unit), issued to a student as a document or in digital format. May be awarded by Host university or EU-CONEXUS AISBL.

OLS – Online Language Support – European Commission website created for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps participants to learn foreign languages and test current skills by filling in English Placement Test: https://academy.europa.eu/local/euacademy/pages/course/_assessment-overview.php?title=english-placement-test/

Scream – an online platform connected to Smart campus, used to register students, professors and academic staff for specific courses.

Smart campus – an online platform used for running classes online: publishing materials, assessments, checking the attendance of students and maintaining contact with them (<https://moodle.eu-conexus.eu/2023/login/index.php>).

Student enrolled - a student (learner) which meets the admission requirements and have completed all the steps of the application procedure, and it is officially registered in Host university's academic system. Each student is counted as many times as micro-credentials he/she has been enrolled to.

Whaller – an online collaboration platform used by EU-CONEXUS staff of all partner universities to organise daily work (file storage and edition, creating tasks, running online conferences, online discussions, voting etc.).

EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in SmUCS Agreement

Between

(1) La Rochelle Université, coordinator of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based 23 Avenue Albert Einstein, BP 33060, 17031 La Rochelle, France,

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

hereafter referred to as KU,

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 Josip Faričić,

(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,

hereafter referred to as UTCB,

and represented by its Rector Radu Vacareanu,

(7) South East Technological University, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Waterford Campus, Cork Road, PO box: X91 KOEK, Waterford, Ireland

hereafter referred to as SETU,

and represented by its President Veronica Campbell,

(8) Universität Rostock, partner of the EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, based Universitätsplatz 1, PO box: 18051, Rostock, Germany,

hereafter referred to as UROS,

and represented by its Rector Elizabeth Prommer,

(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

EU-CONEXUS, the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, is a distinctive transnational institution focused on advancing the smart, sustainable development of coastal urban areas. Its holistic perspective integrates the thematic expertise of nine partner universities from across Europe, promoting inter- and transdisciplinary approaches. This collaboration leverages regional ecosystems and offers a unique competitive edge through a European-wide educational and research network.

The EU-CONEXUS framework aims to enhance educational and professional development by offering flexible, high-quality learning opportunities that can be tailored to individual needs and integrated into larger qualifications.

Under this framework, EU-CONEXUS has launched a Micro-credentials Programme in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability under the Erasmus+ project "EU-CONEXUS Plus" (No. 101089709). This programme aligns with the European Commission’s definition of micro-credentials, providing learners with verifiable, portable records of specific competencies and knowledge.

Its Micro-credentials programme is a significant step in making education more adaptable and aligned with contemporary societal and labor market demands.

The purpose of this Agreement is to concur with the implementation and management of EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in SmUCs.

Article 1: Scope

Article 1.1: Background

The functioning and evolution of urban coastal societies and environments in the context of climate change and increasing anthropogenic pressure are major challenges that are addressed in the framework of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS Governing Board, 2023).

The working group for the Task force Micro-credentials in SmUCS analysed the following surveys/reports:

- Transversal Skills (UNESCO, 2016),
- EU-CONEXUS Skills map (2020),
- Future Citizenship Skills (McKinsey & Company, 2021),
- The Future of Jobs Report (World Economic Forum, 2020),

to define the skills and competences that are demanded by global labour market and came up with a proposal that could be defined as a **‘signature’ academic offer for Bachelor students** to acquire specific competences and be more competitive in the labour market in **Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability** field.

This approach ensures that students are equipped with the most current and relevant knowledge and skills.

Following the adopted EU-CONEXUS Pilot Framework for Micro-credentials Development (May 2023), the characteristics of EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials are:

- **Short Learning Experiences:** micro-credentials are designed around short, targeted learning modules that respond to specific societal, personal, cultural, or labor market needs.
- **Transparent Standards:** learning outcomes are assessed against clearly defined and transparent standards, ensuring consistency and quality.
- **Certified Documentation:** each micro-credential includes a certified document listing the holder's name, achieved learning outcomes, assessment method, awarding body, qualifications framework level, and ECTS credits earned.
- **Credit Bearing:** micro-credentials are credit bearing, aligned with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the European Qualification Framework. They can range from 1 ECTS to 30 ECTS credits.
- **Ownership and Portability:** learners own their micro-credentials, which are portable and shareable, allowing for flexibility in their educational and professional journeys.
- **Quality Assurance:** micro-credentials are underpinned by agreed standards of quality assurance, ensuring their credibility and recognition across Europe.

Therefore, the EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability programme was designed to fill in labour market needs of specific competences through structured micro-credentials offer.

Article 1.2: Key features of the programme

The **EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability** is a lifelong learning initiative aimed at equipping students with essential extracurricular competencies, as well as entrepreneurial, green, and digital skills. This programme is designed to foster seamless and confident integration into the professional world by enhancing students' employability and intercultural capabilities through an international classroom setting.

Key Features of the Programme:

1. **Micro-credentials Structure:**
 - Each micro-credential focuses on specific learning outcomes developed by the participating universities.
 - The programme leverages the expertise and key competencies of each member university, ensuring that students receive the highest quality of knowledge.
2. **Skills Development:**
 - **Entrepreneurial Skills:** Encouraging innovative thinking and business acumen.
 - **Green Skills:** Promoting sustainability and environmental awareness.
 - **Digital Skills:** Enhancing technological proficiency to meet the demands of the modern workplace.
3. **Labor Market Relevance:**
 - Course topics are selected based on comprehensive analyses of significant reports on future labour market trends and needs.

- This ensures that the curriculum is aligned with the latest industry requirements and future job market demands.
- 4. Employability:**
- The programme aims to significantly boost students' employability by providing them with relevant and up-to-date skills.
 - It offers practical knowledge and competencies that are directly applicable to professional settings.
- 5. Intercultural Skills:**
- By facilitating an international classroom environment, the programme promotes cultural exchange and understanding.
 - This aspect is crucial for students to operate effectively in a globalized workforce.

Benefits for Students:

- **Enhanced Knowledge and Skills:** Access to specialized knowledge and skills from top universities in the consortium.
- **Professional Readiness:** Better preparedness for the job market through targeted learning and skill development.
- **Cultural Competence:** Improved ability to work in diverse and international teams.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Continuous development opportunities that align with evolving career paths and industry trends.

Article 2: [Structure of the programme](#)

The EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability represents a forward-thinking approach to education, bridging the gap between academic learning and professional application, and preparing students for successful careers in a rapidly changing world. It enables learners to tailor their education to their specific interests and career goals, enhancing their expertise in Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability.

The programme is structured according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and is organised into six sectors. Each sector comprises eight thematic areas, which guide the topics for the associated micro-credentials (Figure 1). The components and the information about the micro-credentials, such as sectors and thematic areas, description, skills and learning outcomes, are included in the Micro-credentials cards.

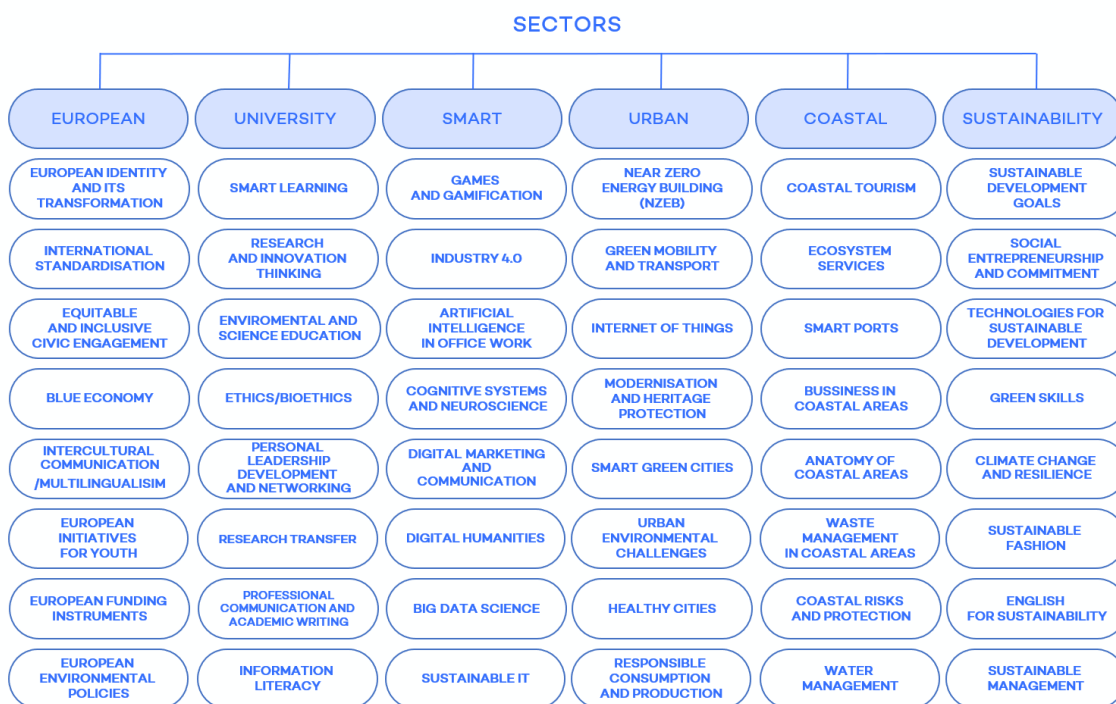


Figure 1. – Thematic areas covered in the Micro-credentials in SmUCS for the different sectors.

Each course (learning unit) in this programme is worth 1 ECTS, which equals on average between 25 and 30 hours of total workload, including online classes and individual studying, for 4-6 weeks, offering maximum flexibility for the student to combine it with his/her study programme or work. The university which delivers the micro-credential (Host university) will issue and award the certificate if it is possible.

Academic Council is strongly in favour of synchronous online delivery to maximise student engagement and interaction, but asynchronous delivery may be utilised only in exceptional circumstances. Asynchronous classes must be justified to the Academic Council by the Host university (to make sure student feedback is considered). The General Coordinator will turn to the Academic Council for approval of the proposed Micro-credentials to be delivered in asynchronous mode.

If there is a need to update the Micro-credential catalogue with new micro-credentials or any other changes, the Home university shall inform General Coordinator, who will send it to Academic Council for information purposes.

Micro-credential courses are taught in English. Teaching staff and students will have to demonstrate a minimum B2, preferably C1, English level.

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

Article 3: Itineraries

There are 3 possible itineraries in the programme that lead to different certification in Micro-credentials:

1. **Individual:** to attend one Micro-credential
2. **Interdisciplinary:** to attend 6 micro-credentials – one from each of the sectors.
3. **Expertise:** to attend 6 micro-credentials – all from one same sector.

Article 4: Micro-credentials certificates

There are 3 certification possibilities according to the chosen itinerary (Article 3):

1. **Individual:** issued at the end of the semester when the micro-credential took place, by Host university.
2. **Interdisciplinary:** issued and awarded by EU-CONEXUS AISBL at the end of each semester, every time the student meets requirements, through the European Digital Credentials for learning platform.
3. **Expertise:** issued and awarded by EU-CONEXUS AISBL at the end of each semester, every time the student meets requirements, through the European Digital Credentials for learning platform.

Certificates of Micro-credentials include information such as (EU-CONEXUS Framework for Micro-credentials, 2023): name and surname of the student, ID/passport number, date of birth, nationality, micro-credential title, grade, workload in ECTS and hours, language of instruction, period of implementation, mode of learning, entry requirements, EQF level, learning outcomes, ISCED field, ESCO skills and competences, issuing date and location (including country), legal name and legal identifier of the provider, internal department/structure/body responsible for providing the micro-credential.

Article 5: Organisational structures and responsibilities

Article 5.1: Governing bodies

Micro-credentials programme is coordinated by Catholic University of Valencia (General Coordinator), being the leader of Work Package 2 of EU-CONEXUS Plus project.

Article 5.2: General Coordinator

The **General Coordinator** is responsible for:

- overall implementation of the programme;
- coordination between the partners of Alliance;
- preparing micro-credentials in SmUCS catalogue (assembling of final Micro-credentials programme catalogue, coordination among the professors for content, etc.) and reporting to the Academic Council;
- initiation, review, and update of the Micro-credentials' programme offer, upon the agreement of all partners;
- coordination between sectors;
- teaching collaboration;
- quality assurance and follow-up;
- preparing satisfaction surveys and analysing them;
- tracking statistics and preparing reports;
- inter-programmes coordination for joint decisions such as Micro-credential Card, *Guidelines for professors/students*, etc.

Article 5.3: EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials Officers

Each partner shall appoint a **Micro-credentials Officer** or assign the below listed responsibilities to staff for the coordination within and between the nine universities of EU-CONEXUS. The Micro-credentials Officer has an administrative role in fulfilling the following tasks:

- to present and promote the Micro-credentials programmes among the students and answer any queries;
- to launch and run call for applications, verify student's applications, run the selection process if necessary and nominate or confirm the list of students;
- to perform tasks necessary to give access to Smart campus 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 Micro-credentials Officers and students;
- to monitor the performance of students in the micro-credential courses, track statistics and prepare reports;
- to track and advise the local students about the completion of the Micro-credentials programme;
- to assist the students and answer queries related to the offered courses, registration and enrolment at the university;
- to exchange information about the grades of incoming students;
- to perform any administrative work related to the coordination of the Micro-credentials programme and communication among the partners, the teaching staff and the students;
- to implement satisfaction surveys and perform other quality assurance procedures;
- to prepare reports and reviews for the stakeholders (professors, administration).

Article 5.4: Obligation of the partners

The partners, excepting SETU, are committed to the following responsibilities:

- to be responsible, as Host university, for the course learning outcomes, teaching and quality assurance based on institutional practices;
- to appoint a Micro-credentials Officer or assigns the below listed responsibilities to staff for the implementation of Micro-credentials programme;
- to offer 6 micro-credentials (of 1 ECTS each) - each partner must offer/teach micro-credentials equal to 15 ECTS till the end of the project;
- to offer micro-credentials in academic years 2024/25 and 2025/26. Each partner should ideally offer each micro-credential 2-3 times during this time, ideally same semester (spring or autumn) each academic year;
- to offer at least 27 places in the course (3 student quota per partner). Upon the availability and the consent of the Host university, the maximum number of participants students in each micro-credential is announced before each semester, where each partner has an equal number of places (students' quota). A minimum of 10 students will be necessary for a micro-credential to be launched, unless the Host university voluntarily agrees to launch the course even if the number of nominated students is lower than 10;
- to prepare marketing materials and to promote the Micro-credentials programme in EU-CONEXUS social media and website and in universities' social media and website, following EU-CONEXUS Brandbook;
- to achieve the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for Micro-credentials on Bachelor level of 3600 students enrolled to the courses during the implementation of EU-CONEXUS Plus project.

Article 5.5: Coordination of the courses and teaching collaboration

Micro-credentials' professors' responsibilities:

- to fill in micro-credential card that gathers information about the course and deliver it to the General Coordinator at least 1 months before the classes start;

- to establish the dates and hours of the classes and pass this information to General Coordinator at least 2 weeks before the application process begins;
- to give 5-6 classes of 2 hours each, to cover recommended 10-12 contact hours with students, to establish assessment and its date and to schedule 1 hour of tutoring;
- to explain the information published in micro-credential card during the first session (micro-credentials content, learning outcomes, skills and related sustainable development goals, timetable, agreement on obligatory synchronous sessions, timetable of tutoring, study methods, assessment methods and grading system, assessment date(s), communication platforms, connection, contact details of the professor);
- to stay in touch with students, Micro-credentials Officer appropriate for each university and with coordinating university;
- to inform all interested parties (students, Micro-credentials Officers and coordinating university) in case of any changes in classes scheduled;
- to use EU-CONEXUS Smart campus to share materials with students and check attendance;
- to encourage communication and interaction between the students during synchronous classes and given assignments;
- to agree with the students the obligatory synchronous sessions during the first class;
- to pass the information about the grades obtained by students to Host university.

Article 6: Student administration

Article 6.1: Enrolment procedure

The partners agree to apply a joint application, selection and registration procedure of the students for each intake which consists of:

1. Publishing of application, selection and admission procedure;
2. Joint marketing campaign;
3. Application by students and their verification by Micro-credentials Officers;
4. Selection of students from each university, following the rule “first comes, first served” (see Article 6.3);
5. Meeting of Micro-credentials Officers to decide on final list of the accepted students;
6. Sending confirmation notification to students and to professors;
7. Management of resignations and waiting list if needed;
8. Enrolment of the students;
9. Start of studies.

The timeline for the organisation of the Micro-credentials programme and the selection of the students is decided by the EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials Officers in collaboration with the General Coordinator.

Each semester is divided into **intakes** based on the period of starting the classes. The intakes refer to application process being open for specific micro-credentials.

The intakes for each semester will define the timeframe of the following steps:

- information to students about the intakes for application;
- student application deadlines (to submit applications through <https://apply.eu-conexus.eu/>);
- student application verification by Home university;

- coordination meeting of Micro-credentials Officers and acceptance/rejection of the verified students;
- communicating the acceptance to the students, by Home university Micro-credentials Officers.

Article 6.2: Admission requirements

Micro-credentials programme and its courses are open for applications of all Bachelor and first cycle degree programme students (flexible curricula) of EU-CONEXUS.

Applicants must demonstrate B2 English level by providing an official certificate of English level (IELTS, TOEFL, CEFR, university's certificate, or equivalent) or providing an OLS English Placement Test certificate on English level. The document must be uploaded to the EU-CONEXUS application platform.

Additional prerequisites may be applied by the Home university.

Thus, the Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest, requires the legal representative of EU-CONEXUS AISBL to sign an official list, provided by the General Coordinator, including:

- names and surnames of the students that will participate in UTCB's micro-credentials (the information verified by their Home universities);
- titles of micro-credentials the students were accepted to.

While applying for the Micro-credentials programme, the students are obliged to agree to a compliance and attendance to the micro-credentials that reads as follows: "I hereby commit myself to attending classes of EU-CONEXUS Micro-credentials organised by EU-CONEXUS partner universities. I am aware of the timetables of the classes and of the fact that I need to attend at least 60% of classes and pass all the assessments in order to receive the certificate."

Deadline for possible changes in the selected courses or resignations made by students is 1 week after the acceptance e-mail being sent.

Article 6.3: Selection

Students will be accepted from the applicants' list (created basing on the report generated from <https://apply.eu-conexus.eu/admin/reports/>), following the rule 'first come, first served' per Home university. Each Home university should choose first students applying for each micro-credential and create a list of chosen students in Whaller. The quota per partner should not be lower than 3 students per each micro-credential.

The universities should consider equal distribution of the spots between partner universities that will depend on the maximum number of students admitted for each micro-credential.

Free spots will be divided between partner universities seeking for balance. At the end of the intake, spots not used by some partners shall be redistributed among other partners, upon an agreement of all Micro-credentials Officers. If most applications come from students at a single university the number of students from that university will not be limited. Instead, as many students will be accepted, as the professor has designated for the micro-credential.

Article 6.4: Final nomination list

Micro-credentials Officers will have a coordination meeting at the end of each intake to make any necessary decisions before the communication of the results to the students and to agree on the students

that would take part in classes. Final nomination list is created during the meeting of Micro-credentials Officers, each time after the application process comes to an end. After that, acceptance e-mails (including link to EU-CONEXUS Smart campus course) are sent by Home university Micro-credentials Officers. Consequently, professors send a welcome message to students by EU-CONEXUS Smart campus, providing links to classes.

Article 6.5: Registration and enrolment

Once the final list of students is decided, Home university Micro-credentials Officers create the students' accounts in <https://moodle.eu-conexus.eu/2023/scream/> and assign them to specific Micro-credentials, previously created by EU-CONEXUS Helpdesk.

A confirmation e-mail is sent by Host university Micro-credentials Officer to all the accepted students, informing about the dates and hours of classes, attaching *Guidelines for students* and including a link to EU-CONEXUS Smart campus course. Host university Micro-credentials Officer confirms the final number of students to the professor and sends him/her the information regarding EU-CONEXUS Smart campus.

Each partner is responsible for enrolling the students in their internal academic system after the final nomination list is confirmed. The applicable procedure for enrolment to micro-credentials in the Host university would be followed.

The internal digital platforms and websites for lifelong learning courses of partners could be used additionally to those of EU-CONEXUS for dissemination, enrolment, training, quality assurance and other necessary purposes.

Article 6.6: Resignations and waiting list

Resignations from micro-credentials will be accepted only by e-mail to Home university Micro-credentials Officer from students' university e-mail addresses. The resignation must be marked in a list of accepted students. The professor, the Host university Micro-credentials Officer and General Coordinator must be informed. Student's access to EU-CONEXUS Smart campus must be modified or closed. All the above by Home university Micro-credentials Officer. Resignations are accepted only until 1 week after the acceptance e-mails are sent. After that period, it is not possible to resign.

If a free spot on a list of students accepted to a specific micro-credential appears due to the resignation, it is guaranteed to a student from the same university that received a resignation, due to the quota division between the partner universities. If there is no student from the same university on the waiting list or if such students do not answer or do not want to join the course, the free spot can be distributed to another university.

Article 7: Students' rights and responsibilities

It is obligatory for the students to participate in at least 60% of the classes (i.e. 3 out of 5 classes or 4 out of 6 classes) to be able to participate in exam/assessment and receive the certificate.

Students that do not participate in classes, even though they were accepted to the programme, but they have not resigned from the programme, will receive a mark 0 – not passed.

Students are allowed to apply to maximum 3 micro-credentials per semester.

Article 8: Assessment

Each university will grade the micro-credentials following their regulation. The grading scales of the nine universities of EU-CONEXUS and their translation into the ECTS grading system are as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. 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	1.7-2.7	3.0-3.3	3.3-4.0	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)

The professor shall announce the date of the final assessment, and retake of final assessment, or when to submit a final deliverable, before the start of the micro-credential in the Micro-credential card.

If the final assessment date and time overlaps with another final assessment of a student at their Home university, the professor should agree directly with that student on another day and time for the final assessment. In the event of multiple students finding themselves in such a situation, the professor will offer another option of dates and times suitable for all of them. If a student cannot attend the final assessment session for force majeure reasons, she/he needs to provide official written documentation.

The professor shall announce the grades to the students (via Smart campus or personally) within seven working days after the day of the final assessment. If a student does not agree with the grade, she/he shall inform the professor within two working days after the grade was announced. In such a case, the Host university regulations will apply to the corresponding process.

After the student accepts the grade (no objection from the student means acceptance), the professor shall inform the Host university Micro-credentials Officer within two working days.

Article 9: Financial Arrangements

Article 9.1: Programme cost and fees

Partners are committed to use their existing institutional resources from the project to create and maintain the Micro-credentials in SmUCS. The partners agree that the teaching costs of a short learning unit are covered by the Host university.

The micro-credentials are free of charge for students.

Article 10: Promotion of the programme

The promotion and awareness-raising of the micro-credentials in SmUCS shall be the joint responsibility of all partners.

The partners, through EU-CONEXUS Joint Communication Unit (JCU), shall market, advertise, and promote the Micro-credentials to encourage students to join and ensure its visibility.

The General Coordinator of micro-credentials, once a year shall join a JCU meeting before the academic year starts for the communication campaign and timeline.

Promotional materials developed by the JCU shall be approved by General Coordinator of Micro-credentials a month before the campaign starts.

A comprehensive and integrated section for micro-credentials on the EU-CONEXUS website will provide all necessary information on the courses for students' applications.

The partners shall promote Micro-credentials programme on their local channels (website, social media, etc.).

Article 11: Legal Clauses

Article 11.1: Duration of the agreement and amendments

The present Agreement shall come into effect on the date the last party signs and will be valid until 31 October 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 month.

Article 11.2: Termination by individual partners

Partners to this Agreement shall each be entitled to terminate their commitment to this Agreement through a phased withdrawal, for any reason, by giving at least 1 year notice in writing to the General Coordinator prior to May of any given year during the applicability of this Agreement.

The General Coordinator may require a partner to terminate its commitment to this Agreement, if that partner persistently does not fulfill its obligations and requirements as outlined in this Agreement. A request for termination of partnership has to be submitted to the Governing Board at least 6 months before the start of a new intake of students.

In the event of a partner withdrawing from the Consortium, the General Coordinator shall manage the phased withdrawal, respecting the interests of the registered students and ensuring the conditions for the effective continuation of their studies.

Any partner wishing to or asked to terminate its commitment shall agree upon a phased withdrawal plan, during which its legal obligations to each student must be analysed, assessed and reported to the General Coordinator. Should the partner be unable to honor its commitment to its students during the course of its withdrawal, arrangements shall be made to transfer the obligations to another partner institution. This may involve, among others, the transfer of funds between the partners involved, for such purpose.

Article 11.3: Dispute resolution

In the event of any dispute between the partners regarding this Agreement, the details of the circumstances of any such dispute shall be communicated in writing by the partner to the Programme Board alleging the same to the other partner/partners.

In the event of any dispute between the partners regarding this Agreement, the partners agree to attempt to reach an amicable settlement in good faith, which should be facilitated by the Programme Board.

In the event that such an attempt is unsuccessful, such dispute shall be resolved through a 'Dispute Resolution Panel', being a three-person panel composed as follows:

The claimant and the respondent (or, in the case of multiple claimants and/or respondents, the multiple claimants, jointly, and/or the multiple respondents, jointly) shall each nominate one-panel member. The nominated members shall appoint a third panel member, who also shall serve as the chairperson of the Dispute Resolution panel.

The Dispute Resolution Panel so constituted shall set its own rules of procedure and adjudicate the matter submitted to it.

The decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel shall be final, and upon it being communicated to the partners, they shall abide by it forthwith as far as legally possible.

Article 11.4: 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 11.5: Protection of personal data

The partners commit themselves to respect the European Regulation EU 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (GDPR) as well as the national applicable laws.

During the application process, students provide the following information through apply.eu-conexus.eu: names, surnames, gender, citizenship, national identification number, identification document type, passport number (if applicable), ID-card (if applicable), date of birth, place of birth, personal e-mail address, university e-mail address, full address, telephone number, Home university, education history and native language

The students' data is managed according to EU-CONEXUS GDPR policy and register of data available on EU-CONEXUS website: <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/privacy-policy/> .

Students may or may not authorise the image rights. They must agree on Copy rights and Exchange of data if they wish to proceed with the application.

Article 11.6: Force majeure

None of the partners to this Agreement shall be responsible to another partner for any delay in performance or non-performance due to *Force Majeure* (which, for the purpose of this Agreement, means any cause preventing any partner from performing any or all of its obligations which arise from or are attributable to the acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond the reasonable control of the partner so

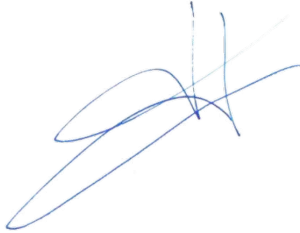
prevented, including without limitation, any strike, lock-out or other form of industrial action, war, riot, civil commotion, terrorism, malicious damage, compliance with law or governmental order, rule, regulation or direction, accident, breakdown of plant or machinery, fire, flood, storm or other natural disasters).

The affected partner shall promptly upon occurrence of any such causes inform the other partners, stating that such cause has delayed or prevented its performance hereunder and thereafter the affected partner shall take all action within its power to comply with the terms of this Agreement as fully and promptly as possible. Should the *Force Majeure* in question prevail for a continuous period in excess of one (1) month, the partners shall enter into discussion with a view to alleviating its effects or to agreeing upon such alternative arrangements as may be fair and reasonable. Throughout the duration of the *Force Majeure* event(s), the affected partner shall use its reasonable efforts to cure or reduce the effect thereof.

Signatures

For La Rochelle Université

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jean-Marc Ogier

For Agricultural University of Athens

Rector

Spyridon Kintzios

For Fundación Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir

Rector

24363788A
JOSE
MANUEL
PAGAN (R:
G97025787)

Firmado digitalmente por
24363788A JOSE MANUEL PAGAN
(R: G97025787)
Nombre de reconocimiento (DN):
2.5.4.13=Ref:AET/AEAT0413/
PUERTO 1 32719974102024134736,
serialNumber=IDCES-24363788A,
givenName=JOSE MANUEL,
sn=PAGAN AGULLO,
cn=24363788A JOSE MANUEL
PAGAN (R: G97025787),
2.5.4.97=VATES-G97025787,
o=FUNDACION UNIVERSIDAD
CATOLICA DE VALENCIA SAN
VICENTE MARTIR, c=ES
Fecha: 2024.11.13 10:01:53 +01'00'

Jose Manuel Pagán Agulló

For Klaipėdos Universitetas

Rector

Arturas Razbadauskas*



For Sveučilište u Zadru

Rector

**JOSIP
FARIČIĆ**

Digitally signed by
JOSIP FARIČIĆ
Date: 2024.10.15
15:57:06 +02'00'

Josip Faričić

For Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții București and Văcăreanu

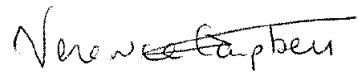
Rector



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, with the first name "Veronica" and the last name "Campbell" clearly legible.

Veronica Campbell

For Universität Rostock

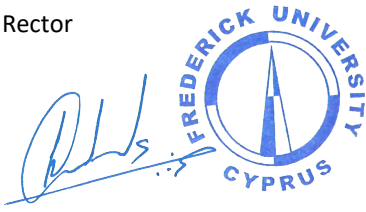
Rector

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Prommer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elizabeth Prommer

For Frederick University

Rector



George Demosthenous