

Annex 2

Cooperation Agreement

SEA-EU Joint Bachelor's Degree in

Sustainable Blue Economy





Background

The European University of the Seas (SEA-EU) was formally established after being selected in the inaugural call for the European Universities programme in 2019. Currently, SEA-EU is a geographically balanced thematic alliance with a focus on coastal and marine-maritime areas. It aims to address societal challenges and advocate for the protection of life both underwater and above water in the Global Ocean, with the aim of creating positive global impacts on our planet Earth.

SEA-EU aims to contribute to the establishment of a European higher education inter-university campus by offering comprehensive training and educational programmes in the field of marine and maritime studies. This is achieved through the implementation of a Joint Bachelor's Degree Programme titled **Sustainable Blue Economy**.

This cooperation agreement outlines the terms and conditions that govern the management of such a programme.



Parties to the Cooperation Agreement

- (1) **Universidad de Cadiz** (hereinafter UCA), having its offices at Cadiz, Spain, PIC 999855340, represented by its Rector Prof. CASIMIRO MANTELL SERRANO,

hereinafter referred to as the **Coordinating Institution**, and a **Partner**

and the following degree-awarding Universities:

- (2) **Uniwersity Gdański** (hereinafter UG), having its offices at Gdansk, Poland, PIC 999855340, represented by Prof. Piotr Stepnowski, Rector,
- (3) **Sveučiliste U Splitu** (hereinafter UNIST), having its offices at Split, Croatia, PIC 999855340, represented by Prof. Dragan Ljutić, Rector,
- (4) **Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope** (hereinafter UPN) having its offices at Naples, Italy, PIC 999856019, represented by Prof. Antonio Garofalo, Rector
- (5) **Universidade do Algarve** (hereinafter UAlg) having its offices at Faro, Portugal, PIC 999855340, represented by Prof. Paulo Águas, Rector,
- (6) **Nord Universitet** (hereinafter NORD), having its offices at Bodø, Norway, PIC 998222927, represented by Prof. Hanne Solheim Hansen, Rector.

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the **Partners** and individually as **Partner**. Both, the coordinating institution and the partners hereinafter collectively referred to as **Full Partners** or **Consortium**.

HAVE AGREED to the following terms and conditions, including those in the annexes, which form an integral part of this Cooperation Agreement.



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Article 1. Purpose and scope of the agreement

1. All Parties to this Agreement agree to cooperate in all facets of the preparation, delivery, and quality assurance of a 180 ECTS Joint Bachelor's Degree Programme in **Sustainable Blue Economy (SeaBlueE)**, hereafter referred to as the **Programme**. They also undertake to provide all the necessary resources and support essential for the efficient operation of the Programme.
2. All Parties to this Agreement shall commit themselves to the ongoing management of the agreement, to the maintenance of the quality and standards of the Programme and to ensuring as positive a student experience as possible throughout.
3. This Cooperation Agreement specifies the rights and obligations of the Full Partners in the preparation and delivery of the Programme. In signing this agreement, all the parties respect without reservation its terms and conditions, including the financial agreements set in the document Financial Agreement included as Annex 1, and note their general obligations and roles, including those relating to data protection, as outlined in the document Data Protection and Sharing Regulations included as Annex 2.
4. Each Partner shall, by signing this agreement, confirm that it has:
 - a. The legal capacity to enter into this agreement.
 - b. The legal capacity to award joint degrees.
 - c. Accredited the Programme in accordance with Institution and National requirements as per institutional involvement in the Consortium or has made all necessary arrangements to have the Programme accredited before the first student intake.
 - d. The Institution's commitment to engage in the Programme.
5. The Cooperation Agreement and the associated Annexes contain the entire agreement of the Full Partners. No other written agreement or verbal agreement on or prior to the entry into force of this Cooperation Agreement will be binding for the Consortium.
6. Non-enforcement of any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver or precedent in respect of that or any other provision at any other time or by any other Party.
7. If any provision, or part of a provision, included in this Agreement is found to be illegal, void or unenforceable, in whole or in part, then such provision shall be severed from the rest of this Agreement and the remainder of this Agreement shall continue to have full force and effect for all intents and purposes of the law.

Article 2. Legal framework and national qualifications

1. The six participating parties are well-established Higher Education institutions in their respective countries. They all have applicable legal national frameworks, which entitle them to participate in a joint programme.



2. The accreditation of the joint programme will be carried out in accordance with Spanish legislation, as it governs the coordinating institution.
3. At the national level in Spain, Royal Decree 822/2021, of September 28th, which establishes the organisation of official university education and the procedure for quality assurance, states in Article 5.5 that Spanish universities may request the verification of a joint curriculum designed between one or more Spanish universities and one or more foreign universities (referred to in this document as Higher Education Institutions, HEIs), leading to the awarding of an official Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree. This will be formalised in an agreement included in the documentation for its verification.
4. In the sixth and seventh additional provisions of this same Royal Decree, it is indicated that HEIs may use the European Procedure for the Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (referred to in this document as the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes) concerning the various phases of the processes of verification, substantial modification, and renewal of accreditation of the joint degree, provided that the country of the coordinating HEI has endorsed this procedure.
5. In the various stages of the evaluation process for the verification, substantial modification, and accreditation of the joint programme, recognition of the evaluation reports issued by bodies listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) is included by the competent Spanish quality authorities.
6. Law 16/2007, of December 3rd, the Andalusian Science and Knowledge Law, establishes in Article 27 that the Andalusian Knowledge Agency is responsible for exercising the competencies of evaluation and accreditation of university activities, as well as the promotion, management, evaluation, and accreditation of research, development, and innovation activities among the agents of the Andalusian Knowledge System.
7. Law 9/2021, of December 23rd, establishes in Article 1.d the creation of the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA) as the administrative agency with competence in the evaluation and accreditation of university activities and evaluation and accreditation of the research, development and innovation activities of the agents within the Andalusian Knowledge System, created by the regional government of Andalusia.
8. Consequently, the joint programme will undergo accreditation by the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA), as it is the competent authority for the coordinating university within the Andalusian Knowledge System.



Article 3. Duration and validity of the agreement

3.1. Entry to force, duration, and termination

1. An entity becomes a Partner to this Cooperation agreement upon signature by a duly authorised representative.
2. An entity or individual becomes an Associated Partner to this Cooperation Agreement upon signature of a bilateral agreement with the Consortium.
3. This Cooperation Agreement comes into effect upon signature by all parties and upon the programme receiving a positive evaluation from the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA) based on the Self-Evaluation Report, followed by accreditation of the joint bachelor's degree programme. The agreement remains valid for the duration of the programme's accreditation and is contingent upon alignment with the content of the Self-Evaluation Report.
4. This Cooperation Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until complete fulfilment of all obligations undertaken by the Parties to this Agreement. Unless otherwise agreed by the Governing Board, after this date this Cooperation Agreement shall be extended automatically for the next academic year. The number of extension periods is not limited.
5. Amendments to this agreement must be made through supplementary agreements signed by all partner institutions.
6. The provisions relating to liability, applicable law and settlement disputes shall survive the expiration or termination of this Cooperation Agreement as agreed in respective articles.
7. This Cooperation Agreement may be terminated in accordance with the terms outlined within its provisions.
8. Termination shall not affect any rights or obligations of the parties leaving the Consortium incurred prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed between the Consortium and the leaving party.

3.2. Amendment

1. The Cooperation Agreement may be modified by the Consortium and signed by its all members.
2. No change, alteration, modification, or addition to this Agreement shall be valid unless agreed in writing and properly executed by the Parties hereto.
3. Subject to the approval of the Parties, the Consortium can adopt and revise the annexes to this Cooperation Agreement without requiring a renewal of this Cooperation Agreement.
4. Subject to the approval of the Parties, the Consortium can adopt and revise the Financial Agreement of the Programme as attached to this Cooperation Agreement without requiring a renewal of this Cooperation Agreement.



3.3. Admission of a new Consortium member

1. While this Agreement is in force, a new Associated Partner may be admitted to the Consortium upon unanimous consent of the Governing Board and upon signature of a bilateral agreement with an authorised Consortium representative.
2. A new Partner institution may be admitted in the Consortium only in exceptional circumstances, upon unanimous consent of the Governing Board.
3. The addition of a new Partner institution shall be regulated through an amendment to this Agreement, signed by the legally authorised university representative of the existing Full Partners and the new Partner Institution.

3.4. Withdrawal of Parties

1. Each Partner to this Agreement retains the right to terminate their commitment through a phased withdrawal, for any reason, by providing written notice to the Governing Board at least twelve (12) months prior to the 31st of August of any given year during the term of this Agreement.
2. Should a Partner decide to withdraw from the Consortium, the Governing Board will oversee the phased withdrawal process, prioritising the interests of enrolled students and ensuring the necessary conditions for their successful completion of studies.
3. Any Partner seeking to terminate its commitment must devise a phased withdrawal plan, which includes a thorough analysis, assessment, and reporting of its legal obligations to each student to the Governing Board. If the Partner is unable to fulfil its obligations to its students during the withdrawal process, arrangements will be made to transfer these obligations to another Partner Institution. This may entail, among other measures, the transfer of funds between the involved parties for this purpose.
4. The Governing Board reserves the right to request a Partner to withdraw its commitment to this Agreement should that Partner consistently fail to fulfil its obligations and requirements as outlined herein, or in the event of circumstances that would render the implementation of the Programme and associated activities illegal or unethical.
5. An Associated Partner may withdraw thirty days after a written notice from the Associated Partner stating this intention is received by the Governing Board and the Coordinating Institution.
6. In case the withdrawing Partner or Associated Partner is or is about to be hosting students (commencing one month before the planned physical arrival of the student) at the time of the withdrawal notice, this Partner or Associated Partner must ensure that the students are given the possibility to complete the semester or the internship as planned, obtain the corresponding credits and, whenever applicable, the diploma issued jointly with this Partner.

Article 4. Settlement of disputes

1. If any dispute arises in connection with this Agreement, including questions regarding its existence, validity, or termination, and such dispute is not resolved through conciliation or mutual settlement between the Parties within a reasonable timeframe, it shall be referred to arbitration. The Party alleging the dispute shall communicate in writing the details of the subject and circumstances to the other Party/parties, with a copy provided to the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall serve as the initial level of arbitration.
3. In the event that the disagreement cannot be resolved by the Executive Committee, each Party shall nominate a member to serve on an Arbitration Panel, chosen from individuals outside the subject area of the Programme. The members of the Arbitration Panel may be affiliated with the party institutions or appointed externally if deemed necessary. The Arbitration Panel will designate an impartial Chairperson.
4. The Panel thus constituted shall establish its choice of law, establish its own procedural rules, and adjudicate the matter brought before it. The Panel shall endeavour to accommodate to the maximum extent the legislation of the Parties involved.
5. The decision of the Panel shall be considered final, and upon its communication to the Parties and the Executive Committee, they shall promptly comply with it.

Article 5. Liability

The Consortium shall be responsible for the delivery of the Programme as outlined in the accredited Self-Evaluation Report. Specifically, Full Partners share joint and several responsibilities for ensuring adherence to the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, acknowledging the consequences of failing to fulfil its entirety.

Article 6. Force Majeure

6.1. Definition of Force Majeure

For the purposes of this Agreement, "Force Majeure" refers to any cause preventing any Partner from performing any or all its obligations that arises from or is attributable to acts, events, omissions, or accidents beyond the reasonable control of the affected Partner. This includes, but is not limited to, strikes, lock-outs, industrial actions, war, riots, civil commotion, terrorism, malicious damage, compliance with laws or governmental orders, regulations or directions, accidents, breakdowns of plant or machinery, fires, floods, storms, or other natural disasters.



6.2. **Exemption from Liability**

None of the Partners to this Agreement shall be held liable to another Partner for any delay in performance or non-performance due to Force Majeure, provided that the affected Partner has complied with the requirements outlined in this Article.

6.3. **Notification and Mitigation**

1. The affected Partner shall promptly notify the other Partners upon the occurrence of a Force Majeure event, detailing how such event has delayed or prevented its performance under this Agreement.
2. The affected Partner shall take all reasonable actions within its power to comply with the terms of this Agreement as fully and promptly as possible, despite the Force Majeure event.

6.4. **Duration and Resolution**

If the Force Majeure event continues for a period exceeding one (1) month, the Partners shall enter into discussions with the aim of alleviating the effects of the event or agreeing upon alternative arrangements that are fair and reasonable.

6.5. **Efforts to Overcome Force Majeure**

Throughout the duration of the Force Majeure event(s), the affected Partner shall use its reasonable efforts to overcome or reduce the impact of the event and resume performance of its obligations under this Agreement as soon as practicable.

Article 7. **Signature pages**

Attached to this Agreement are signature pages whereby each legally authorised university representative signs together with the legally authorised representative of the coordinating institution, thus agreeing to enter into this Agreement. Such signature pages are considered as part and parcel of this Agreement.

1. The Signature Page is done in six original copies of which one shall be kept by the Universidad de Cadiz, in Cadiz, Spain as the Coordinating Institution.
2. The remaining Full Partners institutions will keep an original copy of this Agreement and its signed signature pages.

Article 8. **Management of the joint programme**

The Programme will be implemented through the following governing and management structures.

8.1. Coordinating and partner institutions

The Universidad de Cádiz shall be referred to as the “coordinating institution”, and Uniwersity Gdański, Sveuciliste U Splitu, Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope, Universidade do Algarve, and Nord Universitet shall be referred to as “partner institutions”. All of them together shall be referred as “Full Partners” or “Consortium”.

The institution at which the students are resident at any time shall be referred to as the “host institution”. At any point in time, each student shall be associated with one host institution.

8.2. Programme governance

8.2.1. Roles and duties

The programme adopts an integrated approach, involving partner universities, students, associated partners, and stakeholders. The distribution of roles among them is outlined as follows:

- a. The six full partners are all part of the SEA-EU alliance coordinated by UCA, which serves as the coordinating institution for the consortium's joint bachelor's degree.
- b. UCA is responsible for coordinating the accreditation of the joint bachelor's degree programme, which involves the participation of six partner universities. Accreditation in Spain will be overseen by ACCUA in accordance with the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes¹.
- c. As the coordinating university, UCA is also tasked with issuing the physical joint bachelor's degree (diploma) and its accompanying joint diploma supplement.
- d. All full partners participate in joint academic governance, admission and recognition processes, teaching and assessment activities, supervision and assessment of bachelor projects, mobility and internships, and internal quality assurance procedures. They collectively provide student support, resources, and contribute to the promotion and dissemination of the joint bachelor's degree programme.
- e. Students have been involved in the design of the joint programme and will continue to participate in academic governance and internal quality assurance procedures. They may also choose to participate in peer-teaching and assessment on a voluntary basis.
- f. The SEA-EU partners play a pivotal role in designing and implementing the joint program. The alliance includes almost one hundred associated partners, encompassing regional and local governments, companies, business confederations, student and

¹ For UPN: the accreditation of the joint bachelor's degree programme may be carried out by UPN in accordance with its own national regulations, databases, and standards, if required by the UPN's national legal framework and/or by directives and guidelines from the relevant national Ministry.



citizen associations, NGOs, research centres, and think tanks. SEA-EU partners will contribute to academic governance and quality assurance structures, student admission and selection processes, teaching, and training, with a focus on promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as bachelor projects supervision and evaluation. They will offer placements for professional internships and support students through initiatives such as career guidance programmes.

8.2.2. Joint governing bodies

1. **SEA-EU Governing Board (GB).** Holds authority over strategic decisions operating at the institutional level. The GB comprises 32 members who convene in a hybrid format every six months, including additional Key Operational Meetings. This board includes 9 Rectors/Presidents, 9 SEA-EU Vice-Rectors, and 9 student representatives, along with the SEA-EU General Coordinator, a rotating representative of the Advisory Board, City Council, Port Council, and Stakeholder Group. The SEA-EU Technical Manager serves as a secretary. The GB is responsible for:
 - a. Making final decision about strategic issues.
 - b. Ensuring alignment with the alliance's vision and mission.
 - c. Monitoring overall progress and intervening in case of significant plan deviations.
 - d. Approving amendments to contracts and changes to the Cooperation Agreement.
2. **Executive Committee (EC).** Primary consensus-building body within the Alliance. The EC comprises 9 SEA-EU Vice-Rectors, 6 Work Package Leaders, 3 Work Package co-leaders, 3 rotating representatives from the Student Council, the SEA-EU General Coordinator, and the SEA-EU Technical Manager, who serves as a secretary. The EC meets four times a year: twice in a hybrid format every 6 months, including an initial kick-off meeting at the beginning of the SEA-EU 2.0 project, and twice online, every 6 months. The EC is responsible for:
 - a. Monitoring progress and deviations from the alliance plan.
 - b. Making executive decisions on strategic issues and approving deliverables.
 - c. Mediating in unresolved conflicts at the Work Package level or within SEA-EU bodies.
 - d. Recommending amendments and ratifying the Grant Agreement.
 - e. Approving contingency plans, if necessary.
 - f. Submitting to the GB all proposals, issues and reports that should be reviewed and ratified by the alliance leaders.
3. **Quality and Ethics Committee (QEC).** The QEC is composed of a group of experts on quality assurance, ethics and data protection (1 per university in each topic), the



SEA-EU Vice Rector for Quality (UM), the SEA-EU General Coordinator and the SEA-EU Technical Manager as Secretary.

The QEC shall oversee that project execution takes place in accordance with this plan, and signalise important deviations in terms of results, quality, timing and resources spent. QEC will also work for implementing and managing the ethical and legal issues of all procedures in the project and the joint programmes, ensuring that the guiding principles and the main procedures regarding privacy, data protection, security, legal issues and ethical challenges will be followed.

The QEC is responsible for:

- a. Recommending quality and ethical standards and operational guidelines.
 - b. Reviewing the activities and results (outputs, milestones and deliverables) in relation to agreed quality and ethical standards and operational guidelines and advise for improvements.
 - c. Establishing a consultation function with SEA-EU groups, committees, and boards.
 - d. Ensuring responsible actions towards all partners in the SEA-EU.
4. **SEA-EU Joint Programmes Coordination Office (JPC).** Responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Joint Programmes. This board includes one representative from each participating institution in the SEA-EU alliance. Two regular meetings shall be held per academic year, with the option for exceptional/extraordinary meetings as needed. The JPC will be in charge of:
- a. Addressing common issues faced by Joint Programmes, allowing members to share experiences, identify challenges, and propose collaborative solutions.
 - b. Contributing to the continuous improvement and coherence of joint programmes.
 - c. Encouraging the adoption of innovative teaching and learning methods across joint programmes.
 - d. Keeping the joint programmes dynamic and responsive to emerging trends in higher education.
 - e. Identifying potential areas for collaboration to propose new joint programmes to the Executive Committee.
 - f. Participating in regular reviews and evaluations of the joint programme's performance to maintain academic excellence.
 - g. Collaborating with the SEA-EU Communications Expert Group in the proposal and development of marketing strategies to attract students and enhance the visibility and reputation of the consortium's joint programme.
 - h. Developing joint regulations, procedures and guidelines related to student admission, performance monitoring, assessment, and other common aspects of the programmes.



- i. Identifying funding sources to support joint programme's activities, including student scholarships, technical staff, and infrastructure investment.

5. **Academic Steering Committee (ASC).** Responsible for overseeing academic matters and providing strategic direction for the programme.

The ASC will be comprised of:

- a. The Academic Coordinator of the SeaBluE programme, who will chair this committee, and will be appointed by the coordinating institution.
- b. The Local Academic Coordinators of the participating universities.
- c. One student per cohort of the SeaBluE programme.
- d. The SeaBluE Technical Officer.

The ASC shall hold seven mandatory regular meetings per SeaBluE's edition:

1. Meeting 1. Selection and admission process to enter the programme.
2. Meeting 2. Review of the first semester.
3. Meeting 3. Review of the second semester. Allocation of pathways to students for their third-year mobility taking into consideration their rank of pathways in order of preference.
4. Meeting 4. Review of the third semester.
5. Meeting 5. Review of the fourth semester.
6. Meeting 6. Review of the fifth semester and topics for bachelor projects.
7. Meeting 7. Review of the sixth semester and appointments for Project Assessment Board.

Exceptional/Extraordinary meetings can be held when needed.

The ASC will be in charge of:

1. Developing and periodically reviewing the curriculum of the SeaBluE programme.
2. Ensuring that the curriculum aligns with the academic standards and requirements of all participating institutions.
3. Defining the structure of the joint programme, course contents, internships, bachelor projects, etc.
4. Evaluating, selecting and approving the final list of admitted students.
5. Engaging with stakeholders, including faculty, students, administrators, and external partners, to gather feedback and support for the programme.
6. Monitoring progress towards achieving the programme's goals and making strategic decisions to address emerging challenges or opportunities.
7. Reviewing and approving initiatives, such as minor changes to the curriculum or allocation of resources



8. Providing guidance and support to the Academic Coordinator and the Local Academic Committees.
 9. Establishing clear and transparent criteria for the evaluation of bachelor projects. These criteria typically include aspects such as relevance, originality, methodology, analysis, presentation and overall contribution to the field of study.
 10. Appointing the members of the Project Assessment Board. The ASC shall select qualified reviewers or assessors, who may include faculty members from participating institutions, subject matter experts, and external evaluators, if necessary. These reviewers should have relevant expertise in the field of study covered by the bachelor project.
6. **Academic Coordinator of the SeaBlue Programme (AC).** The role of the academic coordinator of the SeaBlue programme is pivotal in ensuring the smooth functioning and successful execution of the programme.

The Academic Coordinator will be in charge of:

1. Providing academic advising and support services to students enrolled in the programme.
 2. Assisting students with course selection, academic planning, and addressing any concerns or challenges they may encounter throughout their studies.
 3. Overseeing the academic aspects of the joint bachelor's programme, including curriculum development, delivery, and assessment. Monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching and student learning experiences.
 4. Overseeing the administrative aspects of the programme, including enrolment processes, scheduling classes, and coordinating academic activities such as exams, presentations, and workshops.
 5. Facilitating communication among faculty members, organising meetings, workshops, or professional development activities to promote collaboration, and sharing of best practices.
 6. Working with marketing and communications teams to develop strategies for promoting the programme and attracting prospective students.
7. **Technical Officer (TO).** The SeaBlue Technical Officer, supported by the administrative staff, will be in responsible for:
- a. Overseeing student support services, such as counselling, guidance and both academic and administrative assistance, to ensure that students have access to the resources they need.
 - b. Supervising the exchange of student documentation among partners, as well as dealing with financial issues.



- c. Facilitating and speeding up the visa procedure for non-EU students, managing the mobility periods, internships, and other services and facilities.
- d. Developing policies and procedures related to admissions, student progression, assessment, and other aspects of the programme.
- e. Handling administrative and logistical tasks to support the smooth operation of the programme.
- f. Liaising with administrative staff from partner universities to ensure seamless coordination and communication.
- g. Supporting the mobility of students in collaboration with the local mobility offices.

8. **Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC).** The SeaBlue Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC) serves as a key entity ensuring the excellence and coherence of educational endeavours. Comprising multidisciplinary stakeholders, the IQAC is tasked with monitoring, evaluating, and enhancing the quality of joint programmes, fostering a culture of continuous improvement in accordance with the internal quality assurance handbook approved by the Quality and Ethics Committee of the SEA-EU alliance. Through rigorous assessment methodologies, the IQAC strives to uphold academic integrity, relevance, and adherence to established benchmarks. Additionally, it acts as a catalyst for innovation, facilitating the integration of best practices and the incorporation of feedback from diverse stakeholders to optimise learning outcomes and student experiences across partner institutions within the SEA-EU Alliance.

The IQAC is made of one representative from each of the participating universities, and the Partners where relevant and two student representatives from two of the participating universities. Where appropriate, external experts can be invited to the IQAC.

Two ordinary meetings shall be held per academic year, with exceptional/extraordinary meetings if necessary.

The Internal Quality Assurance Committee will be in charge of:

- a. Establishing mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the SeaBlue programme's performance, including student outcomes and satisfaction.
- b. Monitoring compliance with established quality standards and benchmarks across all participating institutions or departments.
- c. Conducting periodic assessments and audits to evaluate adherence to quality assurance guidelines.
- d. Collecting and analysing data on student learning outcomes, satisfaction levels, retention rates, employability of graduates for assessing the effectiveness of the programme, among others.

- e. Using findings from the SeaBlue programme reviews to inform continuous improvement efforts and address areas needing enhancement.

9. Project Assessment Board (PAB). The PAB serves a critical role in ensuring the quality, fairness, and consistency of assessment for students' bachelor projects. It will be composed three academics from at least two universities.

The PAB will be responsible for:

- a. Overseeing the review process to ensure fairness and consistency.
- b. Ensuring that the evaluation process conforms to established quality assurance standards. This will include verifying the qualifications of the reviewers, maintaining confidentiality and integrity throughout the process and resolving any conflicts or discrepancies that may arise during the assessment.
- c. Providing constructive feedback to students based on the evaluation of their bachelor projects. This feedback will highlight strengths and weaknesses, offer suggestions for improvement and provide guidance for future academic or professional endeavours.
- d. Management of the appeals process. In some cases, the PAB may be responsible for managing an appeals process for students dissatisfied with the results of their bachelor project assessment. This may involve reviewing appeals, conducting additional assessments if necessary, and making final decisions on the outcomes of appeals.
- e. Maintaining comprehensive documentation of the assessment process, including assessment criteria, reviewers' comments, assessment results and any appeals or revisions. The PAB will produce reports on the overall quality and outcomes of the bachelor projects for internal and external stakeholders.

10. Local Academic Coordinator (LAC). The SeaBlue Local Academic Coordinators will be in charge of:

- a. Approving the bachelor project proposals.
- b. Providing support to identify potential bachelor project's supervisors from the SEA-EU universities.
- c. Providing internships in collaboration with the Technical Officer.
- d. Solving academic issues students may encounter.
- e. Organising the calendar for the classes with other local coordinators in collaboration with the Technical Officer.
- f. Monitoring the quality of the courses in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Committee.

11. Local Administration Offices (LAO). The local administration offices are essential for the SeaBluE programme efficient operation and management. These offices are tasked with:

- a. Coordinating academic and administrative activities among the different universities associated with the programme, for example ensuring that schedules are compatible.
- b. Providing comprehensive support to students enrolled in the programme. This includes assistance with the admissions process, academic guidance, enrolment management, and resolution of administrative and academic queries.
- c. Overseeing critical administrative processes such as student enrolment, tuition fee management, maintenance of academic records, and issuance of certificates and diplomas.
- d. Acting as a focal point for effective communication between students, faculty, and administrative staff across all participating institutions. They facilitate timely transmission of relevant information and decision-making.
- e. Working closely with the programme's technical manager to implement and maintain necessary technological infrastructure. This includes supporting online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and other essential technical tools for teaching and learning.
- f. Ensuring the programme complies with all relevant regulations and quality standards.
- g. Organising programme-related events such as orientations, workshops, seminars, and graduation ceremonies. These events promote a cohesive and enriching learning environment for students.

12. Student Representatives. It is essential to incorporate student voices into the governance framework to ensure their perspectives and needs are central to decision-making processes. The Student Representatives will be carried out by one representative per cohort.

The Student Representatives will be in charge of:

- a. Representing the interests and concerns of students enrolled in the SeaBluE programme.
- b. Providing feedback to the governance team on matters related to curriculum, teaching quality, student support services, and overall student experience.
- c. Participating in governance meetings and decision-making processes to ensure that student perspectives are taken into account.
- d. Collaborating with student associations and organisations to promote student engagement and participation in programme activities.

13. **Stakeholder Council.** Stakeholders have been involved in briefing meetings as advisory committees to the SeaBluE programme, providing input and guidance on curriculum development, programme decisions and strategic planning. Their industry knowledge and experience help to ensure that the programme remains responsive to evolving market needs and trends. They play a crucial role in helping students develop professional skills, gaining real-world insights, and building networks. Their collective efforts contribute to providing students with a well-rounded educational experience that prepares them for successful careers in their chosen fields. Their participation will facilitate collaboration between academia and the real world. They provide input on industry needs, trends and best practices, ensuring that the SeaBluE programme remains relevant and in line with current industry standards.

The SeaBluE stakeholder council will be formed by one stakeholder representative appointed by each participating university selected from their collaborating stakeholders, the SeaBluE academic coordinator, the local coordinators, the SeaBluE technical officer and the student representatives. The Stakeholder Council will meet, at least, once every academic year.

The Stakeholder Council will be in charge of:

1. Advising the Academic Steering Committee on any issues related to the improvement of the SeaBluE programme.
2. Offering internship opportunities to students enrolled in the joint programme. These internships provide students with practical, hands-on experience in their field of study, helping them develop relevant skills and competencies and preparing them for the workforce.
3. Offering feedback on students' performance during internships, assessing their skills, competencies, and work ethics.
4. May contribute to the academic curriculum by delivering guest lectures, workshops, or seminars on specialised topics relevant to their industry or area of expertise.
5. May collaborate with faculty and students on research-oriented bachelor projects by providing access to resources, data, and expertise.
6. May offer professional development opportunities to students, such as mentoring programmes, networking events, or skills workshops.
7. Assisting with promotion and outreach efforts, helping to recruit students, raise awareness about the programme, and expand its reach within the community and industry. Their involvement enhances the programme's visibility and reputation, attracting top talent and fostering partnerships.
8. May provide financial support or sponsorship for the joint programme, contributing to scholarships, research grants, or programme development initiatives.



8.3. **Obligations of the coordinating institution**

The coordinating institution shall oversee the administrative, legal and financial aspects of the joint programme towards accreditation by the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA), assuming full responsibility for all communication and interactions with the agency.

The coordinating institution shall be responsible for the following duties:

1. Ensure compliance with all provisions binding the coordinating institution with ACCUA.
2. Provide comprehensive reports to the consortium, ensuring they have a thorough understanding of all administrative, legal, and financial aspects.
3. Undertake all necessary steps to prepare for, execute, and effectively manage the joint programme as stipulated in this collaboration agreement and its annexes, in alignment with the self-evaluation report and relevant regional, national, and European legal frameworks.
4. Promptly inform and furnish all signatories with copies of this cooperation agreement and any other official documents or notifications pertaining to the joint programme.
5. Nominate the Academic Coordinator and Technical Officer of the joint programme.
6. Nominate the representative of the University of Cadiz to serve on the Academic Steering Committee.

8.4. **Obligations of the full partner institutions**

Each of the full partner institutions shall be responsible for the following duties:

1. Undertake all necessary steps to prepare for, execute, and effectively manage the joint programme outlined in this cooperation agreement and its annexes, aligning with the project objectives as stated in the Self-Evaluation Report.
2. Provide the coordinating institution with any information or documents required for the joint programme's management.
3. Nominate the Local Academic Coordinator and one representative for the Internal Quality Assurance Committee.
4. Promptly report any delays in performance or any event that may affect the joint programme to the Academic Steering Committee.
5. Relay relevant information received from third parties regarding the joint programme to the Academic Steering Committee.
6. Consistently act in good faith and in a manner that upholds the reputation and goodwill of all signatories, in accordance with scientific and academic ethics.
7. Actively participate in a cooperative manner in meetings of the various bodies outlined in this cooperation agreement.
8. Fulfil all duties as defined by the Academic Steering Committee.

Article 9. **Programme structure.**

9.1. **General overview of the programme structure and content**

The goal of the Joint Bachelor's Degree Programme in **Sustainable Blue Economy** is to provide students with a comprehensive academic foundation, equipping them with specialised knowledge, skills, and competencies essential in the interdisciplinary realm of sustainable blue economy. This program aims to prepare students to excel in various blue economy contexts, ensuring they are well-prepared to thrive in occupations where specific academic expertise at the Bachelor's level is either required or highly valued.

The programme spans three comprehensive years, totalling 180 ECTS credits, constituting a full-time Bachelor's curriculum. Its structure unfolds as follows:

- First academic year: Core Modules (60 ECTS).
- Second academic year: Toolbox Modules (60 ECTS).
- Third academic year: Elective pathways (60 ECTS).

The first and second academic years will be offered by the following full partners:

- University of Cadiz (UCA) and University of Algarve (UAlg), offering the first and second year, respectively.
- University of Naples Parthenope (UPN).
- University of Gdansk (UG).

The elective pathways for the third academic year and the full partners offering them are as follows:

- Blue Sustainability Accounting, Management and Planning (UPN/UG)
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources (UG)
- Human Impact in the Arctic (NORD)
- Sustainable Port-Tourism Cities (UNIST)
- Blue Management: Accounting, Conservation and Restoration (UCA)
- Blue Business: Tourism and Seafood (UAlg/UCA)

Collectively, the six pathways offer a total of 360 ECTS credits. Every elective pathway culminates in a Bachelor Project, which may adopt either of two formats:

- Research-Oriented Bachelor Project: 15 ECTS.
- Professionally Oriented Bachelor Project: 5 ECTS accompanied by an Internship: 10 ECTS.



Mobility, defined as studying two full semesters and earning a minimum of 60 ECTS at a university different from the one attended in the first year and second years, is mandatory during the third academic year. In the case that a student opts for the combination of UCA (first year) and UAlg (second year), the mobility between these two universities will be considered sufficient to meet the programme's compulsory mobility provided the student requests it and receives approval from the Academic Steering Committee.

The document with the Programme Description is included in Annex 3 of this Cooperation Agreement and provides a comprehensive overview of the Programme, including the learning outcomes, course units, methodology and mobility.

Article 10. **Degree and Diploma**

10.1. **Joint and mutual recognition**

Each Full Partner formally recognises the modules offered within the joint programme and the credits awarded.

10.2. **Joint degree award and diploma supplement**

1. Graduating from the Joint Bachelor's Degree in Blue Sustainable Economy will result in a jointly awarded degree conferred by the Full Partner institutions. This globally recognised Bachelor-level qualification is granted upon successful completion of the degree programme outlined in the Self-Evaluation Report, which includes the mandatory mobility component. The joint Bachelor degree Diploma will be issued by the University of Cádiz as the coordinating institution within the SEA-EU alliance, in its English version, as agreed. Therefore, the details of the alliance, including the national names of the degree, will be included in the additional information of the joint degree contained in the Diploma Supplement.
2. Each joint degree is accompanied by a diploma supplement that outlines the specifics of the student's academic journey and accomplishments. It highlights the joint nature of the programme, its structure, content, mobility requirements, and grading scheme. This diploma supplement serves to enhance the recognition and comprehension of the degree among employers, universities, and other relevant organisations.
3. The Coordinating Institution, as defined in article 8.2.1, shall act as the issuing institution and shall be responsible for:
 - a. Managing and maintaining student records.
 - b. Issuing a unified joint degree, along with its diploma supplement, and providing duplicates thereof in conjunction with the Full Partner institutions involved in delivering the joint programme. The Joint Degree and Diploma

- Supplement Templates are included as Annex 4 of this Cooperation Agreement.
- c. Registering the official joint degree according to the national law and custom within its respective country.
4. The Full Partner institutions shall:
- a. Confer the right to issue and deliver the joint degree award and the diploma supplement on their behalf to or in joint decision with the issuing university as defined in article 8.2.1.
 - b. Recognise the joint degree award and the diploma supplement issued by the Issuing university on their behalf.
 - c. Be responsible for submitting the full transcript of records of the student's degree programme followed at its location.
 - d. Be responsible for, if applicable, registering the joint degree according to national law and custom within its country.
5. The Full Partner Institutions agree that this Cooperation Agreement in combination with their national legislation provide sufficient legal basis to start issuing joint degree awards as a consortium.
6. The degree-awarding Full Partner Institutions hereby allow each other to use their crests and logos on the joint degree award and diploma supplement issued under this Cooperation Agreement, when the joint degree award and diploma supplement is issued on their behalf or in joint decision, or when national regulations require the Issuing University to indicate the group of consortium partners on the document.

Article 11. Student administration

11.1. Student application, selection and admission

The Application, Selection and Admission Regulations, included as Annex 5 to this Cooperation Agreement, provides detailed guidelines for the application, selection and admission procedures, including the eligibility and selection criteria, language qualification requirements, and the joint application and admission procedures.

11.1.1. Joint application

- 1. The application procedure for the Programme is jointly organised and implemented by the Consortium in accordance with the contents of the Self-Evaluation Report and the Application, Selection and Admission Regulations of the Programme.
- 2. The website of the SEA-EU alliance will provide comprehensive information about the application procedure, including, the specific requirements for the prospective students, the phases of the application process and their respective calendar, and contact information.



3. The SEA-EU Joint Programmes Technical Offices, on behalf of the Consortium, shall plan and organise the application process, receive and process all the applications for admission.

11.1.2. Selection and admission

1. The Academic Steering Committee shall oversee the annual selection and admission of all students to the Programme, adhering to the joint procedures and criteria outlined in the Application, Selection and Admission Regulations, included as Annex 5 of this Cooperation Agreement. If required by national laws and regulations, the final decision about admission will be made by the Partner institution concerned.
2. The SEA-EU Joint Programmes Technical Offices shall provide support to the Academic Steering Committee in the selection and admission process.
3. The Academic Steering Committee shall be responsible for establishing and periodically reviewing the admission criteria outlined in the Application, Selection and Admission Regulations ensuring alignment with national laws and regulations. Attention will be given to meeting national standards for student admission.
4. No Full Partner Institution shall be required to admit a student if doing so would contravene its national legal requirements for admission.
5. Full Partner Institutions shall endeavour to assist students in obtaining any necessary visas and residence permits prior to the commencement of their studies.

11.1.3. Registration and enrolment

1. Students who have been offered a place and have confirmed their acceptance will be able to enrol in the Programme.
2. The Coordinating Institution shall enrol all students of the cohort in its student management software and share the information with the other Full Partners, enabling them to enrol the students in their respective student management systems.
3. The Coordinating Institution shall enrol all students for the entire duration of the Programme. Additionally, students will be registered in the student management systems of the Full Partner institutions where they are enrolled and undertaking their courses, in accordance with their respective institution's national regulations and requirements. This parallel enrollment at each Full Partner Institution ensures that students effectively meet the administrative and legal standards of each country participating to the joint degree Programme.

11.2. Performance monitoring

11.2.1. Student assessment

1. Student's progress, encompassing both their activities and the attainment of learning outcomes (LOs), will be rigorously monitored throughout the study programme.



2. Throughout the Programme, students will undergo assessment and examination by various lecturers from different institutions. The procedures jointly devised and agreed upon will enable the Programme teaching staff to ensure fairness, consistency and equity in their assessment procedures.
3. At all times, the assessment of the student will be governed by the SEA-EU Student Assessment Regulations included as Annex 6 to this Cooperation Agreement.
4. Student grades shall adhere to the agreed Standardised Grading System, the Student Assessment Regulations and the Code of Conduct for the SEA-EU Joint Programmes, included as Annex 6 of this Cooperation Agreement. This system establishes a standardised framework for assessment, ensuring consistency and transparency in grading practices across all participating institutions and promoting academic rigor and integrity.
5. The Consortium ensures that modules successfully completed at any of the participating universities are fully recognised by all other universities within the Consortium.
6. Where required, grades and credits obtained from associated partners shall be converted and recognised in agreement with the bilateral agreement between the Consortium and the associated partner concerned.

11.2.2. **Student records**

1. The Full Partner institutions commit to maintaining appropriate records of the students attending the Programme and to providing certification of a student's performance to students and partners upon request.
2. Each Full Partner institution shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of their students and for timely transferring these records at the end of each semester or at the end of the mobility period to the central records of the Coordinating University.
3. Communication shall be conducted by the registrar offices of each Full Partner Institution, or their equivalent, through a transcript of records issued in English at a minimum.

11.3. **Mobility**

1. The Programme shall include a mandatory two-semester mobility component for all students.
2. The mobility component will take place in the third year of the study Programme and will result in the completion of 60 ECTS.
3. In the case that a student opts for the combination of UCA (first year) and UAlg (second year), the mobility between these two universities will be considered sufficient to meet the programme's compulsory mobility requirement mentioned in Article 11.3.2, provided the student requests it and receives approval from the Academic Steering Committee.

4. Additional mobility options will be available if approved by the Academic Steering Committee.
5. The Mobility Plan for the Programme included as Annex 7 in this Cooperation Agreement regulates and describes the Mobility Plan for students of the Programme in detail, including the institutions involved, the mobility periods, and the application and selection procedures.
6. The Full Partner institutions shall provide students with pertinent and timely information regarding academic requirements, mobility services, administrative prerequisites, and financial regulations associated with the mobility.
7. The Full Partner sending institutions shall ensure the students receive the necessary funds to participate in the mandatory mobility component, through the Erasmus+ grants and/or any other external alternative funding sources.
8. To ensure equal opportunities for all students to choose their destination based on educational considerations rather than economic grants, the Consortium will strive to assist students in securing additional funds.
9. Whenever feasible, green mobility and active transportation will be prioritised.

11.4. **Internships**

1. Full Partners institutions, in collaboration with the Programme stakeholders and associated partners, shall endeavour to provide a sufficient number of internship options for students who choose a professionally oriented Bachelor Project.
2. A stakeholder or associated partner interested in offering internship opportunities shall be required to have a signed agreement with a Full Partner institution.
3. Students shall receive timely and comprehensive information concerning available internship opportunities, including the requirements, application procedures, necessary details, and academic implications.
4. The academic follow-up and assessment of internship shall be conducted according to the guidelines outlined in the Internship Monitoring and Assessment guidelines, included as Annex 8 of this Cooperation Agreement.

11.5. **Insurance**

1. The Full Partner institutions commit to providing students admitted to the Programme with the same insurance coverage that is provided to their own students while they are at that Partner Institution.
2. Students are required to obtain an appropriate health insurance and legal liability insurance if so required. Each Partner Institution undertakes to provide appropriate information to students for their registration in the national health system or for the provision of other kinds of health insurance which may be required either before their arrival or once they have registered at the Partner Institution.



11.6. Services available for students

1. The Full Partner institutions shall be responsible for facilitating students' integration into the new cultural and academic environment at their respective campuses. This will be achieved, where applicable and appropriate, through an induction week.
2. The Coordinating Institution is tasked with the elaboration of the Student Handbook, which will provide comprehensive information on the Programme, including academic guidelines, support services, administrative procedures, and essential resources for students.
3. The Full Partner Institutions shall ensure that students participating in the Programme have access to all services offered to their regular students enrolled in local programmes. These services include, at a minimum, access to appropriate library, ICT, and learning facilities; support for obtaining visas and residence permits; assistance in securing adequate accommodation; counselling; and other related student and administrative support services. Additionally, each Partner Institution is encouraged to offer any available language courses and health insurance schemes. Further information on these services and applicable conditions will be provided in the online Student Handbook of the degree programme. The Student Handbook is included as Annex 9 of this Cooperation Agreement.

11.7. Student rights and responsibilities

1. Without prejudice to this Cooperation Agreement, and other Programme agreements, students shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges, and be subject to the same duties and responsibilities, as outlined in the Full Partner Institution's regulations, procedures, and customs (including any disciplinary regulations) for elements of the degree programme delivered by the respective Full Partner Institution. It is recognised that variations in the general regulations of Full Partner Institutions are acceptable.
2. The costs for travel, room, and board are the responsibility of each student and must be paid from the student's own funds. Full Partner Institutions shall require their students to obtain and maintain health insurance with coverage that the Full Partner Institution deems appropriate, in accordance with applicable laws.
3. While at the Partner Institution, the local policies for the resolution of complaints and appeals shall apply. Generally, these local procedures must be fully exhausted before Consortium procedures can be invoked.

11.8. Tuition Fees

1. Tuition fees shall be quoted in Euros and shall be applied to all Full Partner Institutions.
2. Student tuition fees also include library and laboratory costs and any other mandatory costs related to the student's participation in the Programme.
3. Student tuition fees shall be paid to the coordinating institution in three instalments, with each payment due at the beginning of each of the three academic years.



4. Tuition fees shall not include accommodation, travel to and from Full Partner institutions, travel documents, such as visas or passports, required within the framework of the mobility programme, or any costs beyond the standard duration of the Programme. Any costs incurred beyond the student's enrolment period in the programme shall be charged at the standard rate of each Full Partner institution involved.

Article 12. **Staff**

12.1. **Teaching staff**

1. The Full Partner institutions shall be responsible for appointing an adequate number of suitably qualified staff to deliver the various components of the Programme as outlined in this Cooperation Agreement and the Self-Evaluation Report.
2. Teaching staff at each Full Partner institution involved in delivering the degree programme must be proficient in the language of instruction specified in the Self-Evaluation Report for the provision of the degree programme at their respective institution. They should also be willing to teach and participate in meetings at other Partner Institutions as needed.
3. The Full Partner institutions shall strive to engage renowned scholars, experts, and professionals in the fields relevant to the Programme to enrich and elevate its quality. This involvement may encompass the mobility of scholars, guest lecturers, and staff members among the Full Partner Institutions, between the Full Partner Institutions and associated partners, as well as inbound mobility from outside the Consortium, provided there is a clear connection to the Programme.

12.2. **Administrative staff**

1. The Full Partner institutions are responsible for appointing a sufficient number of qualified administrative staff to manage and support the various administrative components of the Programme as outlined in this Cooperation Agreement and the Self-Evaluation Report.
2. Administrative staff at each Full Partner institution involved in the Programme must be proficient in the official languages specified in the Self-Evaluation Report for their respective institution. They should also be willing to participate in meetings and training sessions at other Partner Institutions as necessary.
3. The Full Partner institutions shall aim to involve administrative staff with experience in international programmes and higher education administration to enhance the Programme's efficiency and effectiveness. This may include the mobility of administrative staff among the Full Partner Institutions, between the Full Partner



Institutions and associated partners, and inbound mobility from outside the Consortium, ensuring a clear relevance to the Programme.

4. Each Full Partner institution shall ensure that their administrative staff are well-informed about the Programme's objectives, structure, and requirements to provide consistent and accurate information and support to students and staff.
5. The administrative staff will collaborate closely across institutions to facilitate seamless communication, coordination, and the exchange of best practices, thus ensuring the smooth operation of the Programme and maintaining high administrative standards.

12.3. **Staff mobility**

1. The Full Partner institutions shall regulate the reception and/or employment of faculty members and administrative staff intended to participate in mobility under this Agreement, in conformity with their regulations and national law, where required and applicable.
2. Personnel covered by this Agreement shall continue to comply with the contractual obligations of their originating university and shall continue to receive their due remuneration and benefit from the rights that they are entitled to for their legal position, according to the legislative norms existing in the country of the originating university. In each case, the originating university shall consider the duration of the stay as an ordinary service period, for all intents and purposes.
3. The Parties agree that all financial issues relating to payments due to mobile staff shall be negotiated during the delivery of the programme and shall depend on the availability of funds.
4. Staff mobility must result in concrete added value to the delivery of the degree programme at another Full Partner Institution or associated partner.

Article 13. **Quality assurance**

1. The Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC) shall be responsible for the overall quality and standards of the Programme.
2. It shall monitor compliance of the Full Partners institutions with this Cooperation Agreement.
3. It shall be responsible for ensuring that the Programme is delivered to the highest academic standards.
4. Quality assurance shall be based on both internal and external assessment measures, involving the relevant stakeholders in the Programme.
5. External quality assurance shall comprise at least the required national accreditation procedures which are applicable at the coordinating institution.
6. Internal quality mechanisms, evaluation processes and the related involvement of governing bodies of the Programme are outlined in the Internal Quality Handbook of the SEA-EU Joint Programmes, included as Annex 10 to this Cooperation Agreement.

7. The Internal Quality Handbook of the SEA-EU Joint Programmes outlines in detail the procedures and instruments for evaluating the degree programme in terms of modules, mobility, labour market integration, overall satisfaction, and other quality aspects.

Article 14. Financial management

1. The Programme has the following sources of income:
 - a. Fees from self-funded students.
 - b. Grants approved by various European Union funding programmes.
 - c. Private sponsorship and financial support from businesses and foundations nationally and across the European Union or overseas.
 - d. Scholarships from both public and private sources.
2. The SEA-EU Joint Programmes Coordination Office, assisted by the SeaBlue Technical Officer, is responsible for establishing the annual budget of the Programme.
3. The SEA-EU Governing Board is responsible for approving the annual budget of the Programme.
4. The Full Partners will oversee the management of the annual budget in accordance with the Financial Agreement included as Annex 1 to this Cooperation Agreement. This Financial Agreement establishes the financial regulations, procedures and reporting rules of the Consortium, including but not limited to the definition of student tuition fees, the internal reimbursement of eligible costs, and the mobilisation of complementary non-EU funds.

Article 15. Intellectual property

1. All intellectual property that either of the Full Partners owns or controls at the start of this Agreement or acquires later on (as long as it is not a result of the Programme under this Agreement), will remain the property of the Partner that introduced or licensed it. Each Partner is responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions to use the background intellectual property rights owned by the other Full Partners.
2. Each Partner shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of any information or materials it supplies to the other Partners under this Article 15 and shall promptly correct any errors upon notification. However, the donating Partner does not warrant or represent the sufficiency or fitness for purpose of the information and materials. The recipient Partners are responsible for the use to which they put such information and materials.
3. Each Partner grants the other Partners a royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable licence to use the Background IP it introduced to the Programme and any of its Foreground IP for performing or delivering their respective parts of the Programme. Background IP means Intellectual Property owned or controlled by either

of the Partners at the Commencement Date or which shall at any time thereafter become so owned or controlled otherwise than as a result of the Programme under this Agreement. Foreground IP means Intellectual Property resulting directly from and authored, conceived, developed, reduced to practice, or otherwise created during the performance of this Agreement and therefore by reason of the Programme.

4. Foreground IP is owned by the Partner that generated it. If more than one Partner has contributed to the Foreground IP, it shall be owned jointly by the Partners in proportion to their contributions. This ownership shall be regulated by a separate Agreement between the involved Partners.
5. Notwithstanding Article 16.4, the following shall apply:
 - a. Any Intellectual Property generated by a Student in connection with the Programme shall be subject to the rules of the respective Partner where the student was enrolled at the time the intellectual property was created, and if generated during an internship or placement, shall be subject to the rules of the internship/placement provider; and
 - b. Any intellectual property generated by staff shall be subject to the rules of the employing Partner; provided that the employing Partner is required to obtain all necessary irrevocable and royalty-free licences from staff for the worldwide non-exclusive and sub-licensable use of the said intellectual property.

Article 16. **Dissemination of the programme**

16.1. **Promotion**

1. The promotion and awareness-raising of this Joint Programme of the SEA-EU alliance shall be the joint responsibility of all Full Partner Institutions.
2. The Consortium, through the SEA-EU Communications Office, shall undertake marketing, advertising and promotional activities to ensure global visibility of the Programme, the SEA-EU alliance and potential funding entities.
3. Publicity material of the Programme must receive approval from the SEA-EU Joint Programmes Coordination. This material must consistently emphasise the collaborative nature of the programme and its affiliation with the SEA-EU alliance.
4. The Full Partner Institutions shall include details of the degree programme in their prospectuses, websites and other promotional materials. Additionally, they shall include the Programme in their entries in compendia and other guides.
5. The SEA-EU Joint Programmes Coordination and the SEA-EU Communications Office shall convene discussions at least annually to review the communication strategy for promoting the Programme. This strategy will encompass various channels, such as the Programme's website, social media platforms, Partner Institutions' websites, and engagement with European and national agencies for higher education, cultural services, and diplomatic representations of Partner Institution countries and the



European Union. Additionally, interaction with scientific and professional bodies and organisations, NGOs, and participation in international scientific conferences will be considered within these discussions.

16.2. Website

1. There shall be a single, comprehensive, integrated website for the Programme that provides all necessary information on the programme for prospective employers and students, including details on the joint application procedure for the degree programme.
2. The coordinating institution, acting on behalf of the Consortium, shall be responsible for setting up and maintaining updated information in this website.
3. The Full Partner Institutions shall provide input for the Programme website and any shared marketing materials upon request by the coordinating institution.
4. The Full Partner institutions shall maintain links to the Programme website on their own websites.

16.3. Use of crest and logos

1. Each Partner Institution agrees that the Consortium may use and display its name and logo for the purposes of the provision of the Programme and the development of promotional material, Programme literature and other documentation of the Programme.
2. Without prejudice to the former, the endorsement of each Partner Institution shall be required prior to the explicit use of its identity (name, logo, colours and typeface) in advertisements, prospectuses and other publicity materials. In all cases, the wording should be in accordance with the guidelines of each Partner Institution.
3. Through appropriate use of all Partner Institutions' logos, names and design identities, promotional material shall indicate that the Programme is delivered by the Consortium partners and that it leads to the award of a joint degree.
4. Each Partner Institution hereby undertakes that it shall not at any time, use, or permit to be used by third parties, the name, insignia, logo or other distinctive identifying feature of the other Partner Institutions, except where such use is authorised under this Agreement or another agreement between the Partner Institutions involved.

Annexes

1. Annex 1. Financial Agreement




2. Annex 2. Data Protection and Sharing Regulations
3. Annex 3. Programme Description
4. Annex 4. Joint Degree and Diploma Supplement Template
5. Annex 5. Application, Selection and Admission Regulations
6. Annex 6. Student Assessment Regulations
7. Annex 7. Mobility Plan
8. Annex 8. Internship Monitoring and Assessment
9. Annex 9. Student Handbook
10. Annex 10. Internal Quality Assurance System Handbook

Signature Page

SIGNED AS AGREED BY:

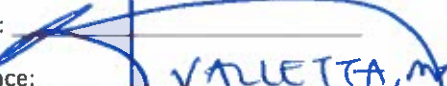
(1) The Coordinating Institution:

Universidad de Cádiz

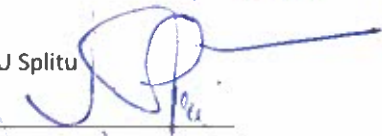
By: 
Place: VALETTA, MALTA
Date: 28/11/2024
PROF. CASIMIRO MANTELL
(RECTOR)

Full Partners:

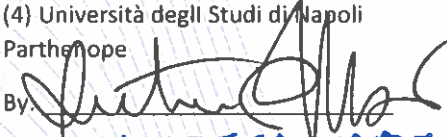
(2) Uniwersity Gdański

By: 
Place: VALETTA, MALTA
Date: 28/11/2024
PROF. PIOTR STEPNOWSKI (RECTOR)

(3) Sveučilište U Splitu

By: 
Place: VALETTA, MALTA
Date: 28/11/2024
PROF. DRAGAN LJUTIĆ (RECTOR)

(4) Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope

By: 
Place: VALETTA, MALTA
Date: 28/11/2024
PROF. ANTONIO GAROFALO (RECTOR)

(5) Universidade do Algarve

By: Paulo Aguiar
Place: VALETTA, MALTA
Date: 28/11/2024
PROF. PAULO AGUIAR (RECTOR)

(6) Nord Universitet

By: Hann Sallie Hansen
Place: VALETTA, MALTA
Date: 28/11/2024
DR HANNE SALLIE HANSEN
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