**CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT**

**[Full Name and Acronym of Research Infrastructure Project]**

**Version [X] – [Date]**

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# PARTIES

This Consortium Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and among the following institutions, collectively referred to as the "Parties":

| **Institution Name** | **Address** | **Representative** | **Email** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Institution 1] | [Address] | [Name, Position] | [Email] |
| [Institution 2] | [Address] | [Name, Position] | [Email] |
| … | … | … | … |

(See Annex I for complete list of participants and scientific key personnel.)

# PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the framework of collaboration, governance, financial commitments, and responsibilities for the implementation and operation of the National Research Infrastructure "[Project Name/Acronym]" as described in the submitted project proposal and in accordance with the requirements of the national call for research infrastructures.

# GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

## Structure

* **Coordinator:** [Name of Coordinating Institution], responsible for overall management, representation, reporting, and financial administration.
* **General Assembly:** One representative from each Party; the main decision-making body.
* **Scientific/Technical Advisory Board:** (Optional) Appointed by the General Assembly for scientific/strategic advice.
* **Work Package Leaders Group (Optional):** Responsible for operational oversight of project implementation.

## Decision-Making

* The General Assembly shall meet at least twice per year.
* Decisions are taken by consensus or by simple majority vote if consensus is not possible; each Party has one vote.
* A quorum exists if at least two-thirds (2/3) of Parties are present or represented.

# FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND BUDGET

## Financial Commitments

* Each Party commits to its assigned tasks and to the provision of financial or in-kind contributions as described in the approved budget (see Annex II).

## Payments

* Τhe funding authority (Managing Authority for the “Competitiveness” Programme) is responsible for distributing funds to the Parties according to the approved budget and project milestones.
* Each Party is responsible for justifying its own expenses.

## Budget Table

(See **Annex II** for detailed partner budget and cost categories.)

# ACCESS POLICY AND ACCESS EVALUATION PANEL

## User Categories

* Academic researchers, public institutions, governmental and regional authorities, industry/private sector, citizen scientists, and community users.

## Access Modes

* **Excellence-based competitive access** (peer-reviewed, based on scientific merit)
* **Broad/community access** (education, citizen science, outreach)
* **Pay-per-use** (primarily for industry/private users)

## Access Procedures

* Applications are submitted via the project website/portal.
* The Coordinator checks eligibility and completeness.
* Applications are evaluated by the Access Evaluation Panel (see below).

## Access Evaluation Panel

**Establishment and Composition**

* The Access Evaluation Panel (“Panel”) is appointed by the General Assembly and consists of at least three (3) experts, internal or external, with relevant scientific or technical expertise.
* The Panel is supported administratively by the Coordinator.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

* The Panel reviews, evaluates, and ranks applications according to published criteria and the RI’s strategic objectives.
* The Panel ensures compliance with RI access policy, ethics, and non-discrimination.

**Evaluation Procedure**

* Applications are assessed on scientific quality, alignment with RI priorities, societal/educational relevance, feasibility, resource availability, ethics/legal compliance, and impact.
* Panel members independently score and collectively rank applications.
* Conflict of interest must be declared and the affected member recused.

**Transparency and Appeals**

* Applicants receive written notification and brief feedback.
* Appeals regarding process irregularities may be submitted within fifteen (15) days. The General Assembly will review appeals, consulting an external observer if necessary.

**Confidentiality**

* Panel members sign confidentiality and conflict of interest declarations.
* All evaluation materials are confidential.

# DATA MANAGEMENT AND OPEN SCIENCE

## Data Management Policy

* All project data will be managed according to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.
* A Data Management Plan (DMP) will be created and updated; all Parties must comply.

## Open Access

* Publications and data will be made openly available where possible, respecting legal and ethical requirements.

## Data Security

* Sensitive or personal data are managed according to GDPR and relevant national legislation.
* Appropriate cybersecurity and data protection measures are mandatory for all Parties.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

* Results produced by a Party remain the property of that Party unless otherwise agreed.
* Joint results or inventions will be managed by separate agreement if needed.
* Confidential information shared within the Consortium must not be disclosed to third parties without written consent.
* These obligations survive termination of this Agreement.

# ETHICS, GENDER, AND EQUALITY

## Ethics

* All activities comply with applicable national and EU regulations, including those on research ethics, human subjects, animal use, and data protection.
* All required ethics approvals will be obtained before relevant work begins.

## Gender and Equality

* The Consortium is committed to gender balance and equal opportunity in governance and staffing.
* Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

# LEGAL STATUS

* This Agreement does not create a separate legal entity; the Consortium operates as an informal collaboration unless and until a legal entity is established.
* Each Party remains independent and responsible for its own obligations.

# DURATION AND TERMINATION

* This Agreement enters into force upon the date of the last signature and remains valid until the completion of the project or the establishment of a legal entity for the RI.
* Any Party may withdraw with sixty (60) days’ written notice, provided all pending obligations are fulfilled.
* Upon withdrawal or termination, all funds not duly justified must be returned.

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## Amicable Settlement

* The Parties will use all reasonable efforts to resolve any dispute amicably.

## Internal Escalation

* If unresolved after thirty (30) days, the dispute shall be referred in writing to the General Assembly, which shall convene within thirty (30) days to attempt resolution.
* The Parties may jointly request mediation by an external expert.

## Legal Proceedings

* If still unresolved, either Party may submit the dispute to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Athens, Greece.
* This Agreement is governed by Greek law.

## Continuity of Work

* Parties shall continue to perform their obligations during the dispute resolution process unless impossible due to the nature of the dispute.

# SIGNATURES

Signed for and on behalf of each Party by their duly authorised representatives:

| **Institution** | **Name/Position** | **Signature** | **Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Annexes**

* **Annex I:** List of Participants and Key Scientific Personnel
* **Annex II:** Budget Table and Financial Commitments
* **Annex III (Optional):** Data Management Plan Summary
* **Annex IV (Optional):** Access Policy Full Text

**Instructions:**

* Fill in all brackets [ ] with the relevant information.
* Add or adapt annexes as needed to match your proposal submission requirements.
* You may translate to Greek if necessary for submission.