

**International Agreement for a double doctoral degree**  
**"Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Biomedical Informatics"**

**European project "MIROR" GA No. 676207**

Between

The University Paris Descartes, France represented by its President Frédéric Dardel

And

The University of Split, Croatia, represented by Professor Šimun Anđelinović, PhD, Rector.

**Article 1: Purpose of Agreement**

This Agreement is made in the framework of the action named: Methods In Research on Research - "MIROR" based on the Grant Agreement No 676207 between the Research Executive Agency (REA) under the power delegated by the European Commission; and the MIROR consortium composed of the university Paris Descartes (coordinating institution of the Consortium); University of Amsterdam; Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, University of Ghent, University of Liverpool and University of Split.

The objective of this agreement is to regulate, within this framework, reciprocal exchanges, to define the conditions, content, terms and modalities for obtaining a "double doctoral degree" from the University Paris Descartes and the University of Split. To obtain a double degree, the realisation and defense are carried out under the joint responsibility of both institutions.

The European Joint Doctorate programme "Methods in Research on Research – MIROR" provides sustainable, integrated and coordinated training at doctoral level in the framework of a worldwide network of excellence in Methods in Research on Research.

**"Research on Research"** is an emerging new scientific discipline that aims to identify and minimise persistent threats to medical research quality. Despite this societal challenge, only a limited number of research teams in Europe and the world are dedicated to this topic.

MIROR will create, in Europe, an innovative and ambitious multidisciplinary intersectoral joint doctoral training programme, dedicated to Methods in Research on Research (MIROR) in the field of clinical research. MIROR overarching aim is to train the future generations of top-level scientists in Research on Research and develop creative solutions to transform clinical research practice and increase its value.

This programme aims to 1) prepare students for envisioning the future challenges in clinical research and find innovative solutions to face them, 2) train students to go well beyond the state-of-the-art in their research, 3) help students think differently, taking advantage of the multidisciplinary expertise

and intercultural diversity of the network, 4) teach students how to move from research to action and convert knowledge and idea into a product, and 5) help students develop skills to match the public and private sector needs and create new professional opportunities.

MIROR will involve 15 PhD students (i.e. early-stage researchers, ESRs).

The MIROR network is composed of 7 renowned universities/research organisations and 10 associated academic and non academic partner organisations. MIROR beneficiaries and partners are listed in annex 1.

Paris Descartes University is the Coordinating institution of the Consortium. The Consortium agreed to establish a joint doctoral training programme that is approved and financed by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks programme (ITN), European Joint Doctorate (EJD).

The Supervisory Board (SB) is the governing body of the project especially for all strategic decisions. The SB will consist of one representative from each participating team, including beneficiaries, academic and non-academic partners, the coordinator and 2 PhD students (ESRs) representatives.

Beneficiaries in this Consortium are the institutions awarding the PhD degrees.

The partner organisation “University Paris-Saclay” is awarding PhD degrees to PhD students recruited by the beneficiary “Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique”.

The language of the Consortium is English.

MIROR comes into force on **March 1, 2016**. PhD students will start their research project in October 2016.

## **Article 2: Scope**

This agreement concerns PhD students selected to participate in the MIROR programme, regularly registered at the University Paris Descartes and at the University of Split.

For the preparation of the doctoral degree, the candidate will be registered at:

Paris Descartes University, Doctoral School “Pierre Louis de Santé Publique : Epidémiologie et Sciences de l'Information Biomédicale” (ED 393) within the "Centre of Research in Epidemiology and Statistics Sorbonne Paris Cité", UMR 1153

And

University of Split, PhD program Translational Research in Biomedicine (TRIBE) at the University of Split, School of Medicine.

Tuition fees will be paid only in the country of the "Main supervisor", the Main supervisor choosing for ESR the institution in which the tuition fees will be paid.

This double registration will be renewed on the same terms, for the duration of the thesis preparation, up to 4 years.

For the University Paris Descartes, the administrative registration is annual and must be done at the beginning of the academic year.

For the University of Split, administrative registration for the PhD program Translational Research in Biomedicine (TRIBE) at the University of Split, School of Medicine is annual and must be done at the beginning of the academic year.

### **Article 3: Admission of PhD students and registration procedure**

#### Admission

The PhD students selected under this programme must comply with the regulations in force in the competent services of doctoral schools of the institutions involved and with the rules stated in the MIROR Grant Agreement No 676207.

Particularly,

- PhD students should fulfil the requirements for application for a PhD programme. They must have (or are expected to obtain by August 2016) the equivalent of a Master degree in the following fields: Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Public Health, Mathematics, Social science, and Computer science etc.
- PhD students shall be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree at the time of recruitment.
- PhD students can be of any nationality, but they must comply with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility rules. At the time of the recruitment by the host organisation, PhD students must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment. Short stays such as holidays and/or compulsory national service are not taken into account. However, the appointed researcher must not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment by the host organisation in the same appointing organisation.

The selection process will follow the European Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers including its gender and equal opportunities recommendations. Each application will first be assessed for eligibility with particular reference to the mobility rules. Applications that are eligible will then be assessed by members of the consortium using criteria based on scientific merit of the applicant, relevance of research training and experience, level and quality of degrees awarded, previous publication record and documented experience of teamwork, letter of recommendations.

Suitable PhD students will be contacted and invited for an interview via videoconferencing. Interview panels will assess the creativity, critical thinking and enthusiasm of PhD students to participate in the project.

Each candidate and his research project will be submitted for approval to the doctoral school of each institution.

### Registration

Registration procedures for PhD students for the double degree must obey to the regulation of the doctoral schools of both institutions. The registration must specify the student's name, the title of the PhD research project to be developed, the work plan, the anticipated title for the thesis and the names of supervisors (main supervisor, co-supervisors).

### **Article 4: Social protection**

Health insurance is provided by the doctoral contract and it is included in the "Living Allowance" (researcher's salary before deductions) or in the student salary.

In accordance with the Croatian Employment Law, during the term of Employment, University of Split will provide and pay for the health insurance for the PhD students selected under this programme equal to that which is provided to all other employees of the University of Split.

At the University Paris Descartes, the beneficiary of the contract will be affiliated to the general social security scheme for the social insurance benefits, particularly for health insurance, and to the IRCANTEC (Institution de Retraite Complémentaire des Agents Non Titulaires de l'État et des Collectivités publiques – Supplementary Pension Institution for non-permanent staff of the State and Public Bodies) for the supplementary pension allowance. The beneficiary of the contract will also benefit from the legislation related to accidents at work and occupational diseases.

NB: to benefit from French legislation related to accidents at work, stay in a foreign institution must:

- Not exceed 12 months
- Give rise to a remuneration not exceeding 12.5% of the hourly ceiling of social security
- Take place in the institutions of the "MIROR" network

Liability and Insurance: The host organisation and the PhD student declare being guaranteed under civil liability. Whatever the nature of the stay and the country of destination, the student must be covered by an assistance insurance (medical repatriation, legal assistance etc.) and by an individual accident insurance policy.

As for the University Paris Descartes, the PhD student is placed under the functional authority of the host laboratory. He/she is subject, in the exercise of his functions, to the operating rules of this body.

If the student signed a contract with the University Paris Descartes, the university shall exercise disciplinary authority and can be notified by the University of Split. In case of work accident of the PhD student, the host laboratory commits to inform the Paris Descartes University in the shortest delay.

### **Article 5: Organisation of studies and defence procedure**

The PhD students selected under this programme must comply with the regulations in force in the competent services of doctoral schools of the institutions involved and with the rules stated in the MIROR grant agreement No 676207.

### Supervision

Each student will have **one main supervisor, one co-supervisor and one mentor**.

The PhD supervisors, co-supervisors and mentors are in charge of recruitment and selection of the ESRs, will meet regularly with the ESR to discuss progress and provide scientific guidance and training. They assist the ESRs in drawing up a Career Development Plan and monitor their training progress.

The **main supervisor** will come from the beneficiary organisation appointing the student. Each student will also have a clearly identified **co-supervisor** from another hosting academic organisation during planned secondment. Finally, each student will have **a mentor** from a non-academic partner.

Students who do not have a main supervisor or co-supervisor affiliated to the University Paris Descartes will also have as co-supervisor the representative of the University Sorbonne Paris Cité (USPC) at the doctoral school ED 393.

Co-supervision and mentorship will concern all steps of the research project from conception to dissemination of results.

The Supervisory board will also participate in the supervision of students. Each student's project will be discussed at its inception, and both the academic and non-academic partners will be invited to make suggestions for improvement. Students will regularly present the progress of their projects and the difficulties encountered to the SB, which will propose some solutions or amendments.

### Progress monitoring

At the individual level, each student will agree with his supervisors and mentor on a regular schedule of meetings and on a research plan including clear intermediate objectives and deadlines. The student will also present the progress of his/her project to the whole network every 6 months during the network meeting and will obtain feedback and input. The student will have to write a monitoring annual report that will be submitted to the European Commission.

Further, if required, the doctoral school of each institution will assign a tutor to each PhD student. Each year, the student will write a report describing the progress of the work dedicated to the doctoral school of each institution. The student will regularly contact the tutor of each institution for an interview. The tutors will evaluate the progress of the work and inform the related doctoral school.

### Training programme

The PhD students will complete the MIROR training programme as described in the Grant Agreement No 676207. The students' participation in training courses will be monitored through the fulfilment of a competence portfolio. The SB will monitor, evaluate and award training certificates that certify the credits for the training activities of the PhD students.

To fulfil the requirement of the doctoral schools of each institution, the students will have to participate in complementary courses offered locally at participating institutions. These courses will be evaluated and validated by the doctoral school of each institution if required.

### Thesis and defense

The thesis must be prepared within the timeframe stipulated in the Grant Agreement.

Candidates can defend their theses only after they have published two articles as the first author in biomedical journals indexed in SCI database with IF larger than 1. Biomedical field is defined through PubMed indexing.

The thesis must be written in English with a summary in French and Croatian.

The thesis defense will obey to the requirements of the doctoral schools, being recognised by both signatory institutions.

The thesis is defended in English.

The thesis jury will be designated according to the rules of both institutions.

One defense in each organisation will be organised.

#### **Article 6: Administrative and Financial Obligations**

Tuition fees will be paid only in the country of the "Main supervisor", the Main supervisor choosing for ESR the institution in which the tuition fees will be paid.

The tuition fees will be annually funded by the MIROR programme ("Research, Training and networking costs"). Other expenses (travel, accommodation, etc.) may be funded by the MIROR programme or may remain in charge of the student himself, depending on the eligibility of costs and funding availability of the programme.

The existence of this agreement does not imply any kind of financial support from the signatory institutions.

The host institution must offer to the candidate the best possible working environment for his research.

#### **Article 7: Doctor Diploma Issuance**

Both institutions recognise the validity of the research programme carried out by the student as well as the defended and approved thesis, granting the title of Doctor to the candidate with validity in France and in Croatia.

If the PhD student fulfils all the necessary conditions, the University Paris Descartes is committed to delivering to the PhD student the degree of Doctor of the University Paris Descartes.

The University of Split is committed to delivering to the PhD student the degree of Doctor of the University of Split.

In France, deposit modalities, reporting, reproduction, dissemination and preservation of thesis or other works presented during the thesis defence are regulated by the existing regulation.

For the University of Split, deposit modalities, reporting and reproduction of thesis are regulated by the Ordinance on International Joint Doctorates of the University of Split.

#### **Article 8: Educational and Administrative coordination**

Pedagogical Coordination of this agreement is given to the Supervisory Board of the MIROR programme.

It is its responsibility to find solutions, guide the academic and administrative issues and monitoring the activities during the term of this Agreement.

At the University Paris Descartes, administrative coordination is given to the Institute for Doctoral Training (IFD).

At the University of Split, administrative coordination is given to the Office for postgraduate studies of the institution where ESR attend the doctoral program.

### **Article 9: Property**

The intellectual property rights related to the results achieved during the term of this Agreement shall be protected according to the laws in force in each country involved and are detailed in the Grant Agreement (page 29) and in the Consortium Agreement linked to the Grant Agreement n°676207.

As part of the research conducted within the host organisation, the PhD student must respect the confidentiality rules, in particular on that information whose disclosure could damage the interests or reputation of the University or the host Organisation.

The PhD student recognises that he does not acquire, due to his assignment, any right of industrial or commercial property on the research results, the equipment, the knowledge or the expertise of the laboratory, including unpublished results and he commits not to leave the laboratory with any hardware or laboratory notebook, without the prior permission of the Director of the laboratory.

- Ownership of Results

Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

- Joint ownership

Unless otherwise agreed:

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to use their jointly owned Results for non-commercial research activities on a royalty-free basis, and without requiring the prior consent of the other joint owner(s), and

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise Exploit the jointly owned Results and to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties(without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:

(a) at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and

(b) Fair and Reasonable compensation.

### **Article 10: Responsibility**

Co-signers institutions will not be considered in breach of their contractual obligations if they have been prevented from performing them by force majeure.

### **Article 11: Validity**

This agreement is established for a period of four (4) years from the project start date (March 1, 2016). Any changes must be notified by amendment approved and signed by all parties.

### **Article 12: Denunciation**

Parties may terminate this Agreement at any time upon ninety (90) days' minimum written notice. If there are issues running, the parties will define responsibilities for the implementation of each task.

**Article 13: Resolution of disputes**

In case of possible disputes raised during the execution and interpretation of this Agreement, the parties will try to find a consensual solution. In the impossibility of a consensus, the parties will designate a mediator by mutual agreement.

Thus being fair and forth, the parties sign two (2) copies of the present document, all of the same content and purpose.

**For the University Paris Descartes**

*Name and surname: Frédéric DARDEL*

*Title: President*

*Place and date: Paris, 17/06/2016*

*Signature and stamp:*



UNIVERSITÉ  
PARIS DESCARTES  
Frédéric DARDEL  
Président,

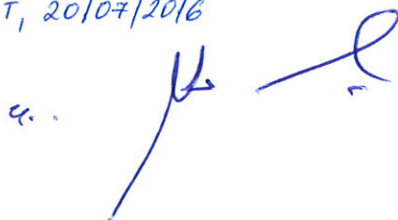
**For the University of Split**

*Name and surname: Professor Šimun Anđelinović, PhD*

*Title: Rector*

*Place and date: SPLIT, 20/07/2016*

*Signature and stamp:*





## Annexes

### Annex 01 – beneficiaries and Partner Organisations

#### MIROR beneficiaries organisations

- **UNIVERSITE PARIS DESCARTES (UPD)**, 197517212, established in Rue de l'Ecole de Medecine 12, PARIS 75270, France, FR85197517212
- **CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS)**, 180089013, established in Rue Michel -Ange 3, PARIS 75794, France, FR40180089013
- **THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL (UL)**, RC000660, established in BROWNLOW HILL765 FOUNDATION BUILDING, LIVERPOOL L69 7ZX, United Kingdom, GB673598875
- **UNIVERSITEIT GENT (UGent)**, 248015142, established in SINT PIETERSNIEUWSTRAAT 25, GENT 9000, Belgium, BE0248015142
- **UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA (UPC)**, established in CALLE JORDI GIRONA 31, BARCELONA 08034, Spain, ESQ0818003F
- **Academisch Medisch Centrum bij de Universiteit van Amsterdam (AMC)**, established in MEIBERGDREEF 9, AMSTERDAM 1105AZ, Netherlands, NL004627672B01
- **SVEUCILISTE U SPLITU (UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT) (US) HR6**, 060054658, established in LIVANJSKA 5, SPLIT 21000, Croatia, HR29845096215

#### MIROR Partner Organisations are:

- BioMed Central (BMC)
- The British Medical Journal (BMJ)
- Cochrane (CC)
- European Clinical research Infrastructure network (ECRIN)
- University of Oxford, EQUATOR network (EQ)
- Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI)
- The Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford University (METRICS)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
- Sideview (SV)
- University of Paris-Saclay (UPS)

## Annex 02 –Supervisory Board Members

The Supervisory Board Members are:

- The MIROR coordinator, Prof. Isabelle Boutron (Paris Descartes University), as chair;
- One representative of each beneficiary:
  - University Paris Descartes, (UPD)
  - University of Amsterdam, (AMC)
  - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)
  - Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)
  - University of Ghent (UG)
  - University of Liverpool (UL)
  - University of Split (US)

One representative of the Partner Organisations:

- BioMed Central (BMC)
  - The British Medical Journal (BMJ)
  - Cochrane (CC)
  - European Clinical research Infrastructure network (ECRIN)
  - University of Oxford, EQUATOR network (EQ)
  - Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI)
  - The Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford University (METRICS)
  - National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
  - Sideview (SV)
  - University of Paris-Saclay (UPS)
- Two students’ representative elected by the students who will be considered full member of the board.