Memorandum of Understanding

of the

Urban Europe Research Alliance (UERA)

*Article1*

**Preamble**

The idea of planning and launching the Urban European Research Alliance (UERA) was developed within the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe (JPI UE) in order to:

* Strengthen and enhance scientific and technological research and innovation in the urban context;
* Establish a large scale, long term, international research and development programme dedicated to urban development;
* Apply a holistic and systemic approach to create attractive, sustainable, liveable and economically viable urban areas.

UERA is a distinctive network in Europe, whose peculiarity is to improve an integrated and holistic approach in the field of European urban research; this goal is to be reached by means of promoting this approach throughout research institutions, organisations and universities (hereinafter referred to as “Parties”) that agree upon the following memorandum of understanding (hereinafter referred to as MoU).

*Article2*

**Establishment**

The Parties to this agreement hereby establish the UERA as an independent network of research and development institutions or organisations and universities concerned with international cooperation in the field of urban research and innovation. The UERA will play as reference interlocutor, both at the European and the international level, to give innovative input into urban policies and urban research programmes.

UERA aims and actions reflect the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the JPI UE.

The UERA is a non-profit organisation.

The UERA does not have legal personality.

The parties accept the Terms of Reference for the UERA, which are attached as Annex to this agreement and form its integral part.

Nothing in this MoU will be construed as limiting the participation of other parties in the specific activities, as deemed appropriate by the signatories to this Memorandum, on a case basis in accordance with UERA statutory requirements.

This document is a MoU and is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on any Parties.

*Article 3*

**Objectives and Activities**

UERA aims to strengthen, expand and optimize coordination activities and research planning in Europe in order to avoid fragmentation and optimise resources in the field of urban research and innovation capabilities. In view of this, Parties agree to cooperate in:

* Elaborating a shared vision on urban research based on a systemic approach, and inter and trans-disciplinarity;
* Promoting common projects by pooling and integrating activities and resources;
* Sharing world-class national facilities and infrastructures in Europe (i.e. data bases, observatories, living labs) for the implementation of joint research/innovation projects or joint experimentations;
* Organising workshop and conferences;
* Helping to set up or strengthen long-term research cooperation, through a coordinated exchange programme;
* Promoting programmes for trainings and for researcher exchange within the network parties;
* Gathering, sharing and disseminating results.

In the long term UERA aims to share JPI aims and to contribute to the JPI Urban Europe Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and to its implementation.

Therefore UERA members agree to make common effort to improve the collaboration with companies, cities, citizens and other urban stakeholders; that is a precondition so that the UERA expectations of an integrated and comprehensive approach to overcome the complexity of interwoven factors influencing urban sustainability (social, economic and environmental) become feasible.

The purpose and structure of UERA, roles, responsibilities, activities, and membership, as well as its governance are detailed in its Terms of Reference that is an integral part of this document.

*Article 4*

**Accession**

This MoU is open to adhesion by Institutions, Organisations and Universities interested in joining the UERA that have skills concerning the UERA issues and that share the UERA approach.

The application is submitted to the UERA for its approval, in accordance with the Term of Reference.

*Article 5*

**Withdrawal**

Each Party can withdraw from this Agreement and therefore withdraw from UERA membership at any moment. The withdrawal will become effective by means of a formal communication to UERA in accordance with the Term of Reference.

*Article 6*

**Duration**

The UERA is established for an undefined period.

*Article 7*

**Amendments**

Each part of this MoU can be amended by consensus agreement between the signatory Parties.

A written proposal shall be submitted to the UERA Steering Board and shall enter in to force in accordance with the procedure provided by the Term of Reference.

*Article 8*

**Entry into force**

The English Version of the MoU is to be intended as the binding one. Each part shall have one copy duly signed.

This agreement shall enter into force on the day when at least three Parties have signed it.

*Article 9*

**Binding nature**

This MoU is not intended to be and will not create any legally binding obligation on any of the Parties, except as specifically set out in the present document.

Any other further arrangement is subject to the negotiation and execution of a legal agreement, comprehensive of specific provisions concerning the management of intellectual property rights.

**For**

Name of the organisation:

Address:

**Signed in two (2) originals by**

Surname and name of the legal representative:

Date:

Signature:

A copy of this document will be sent to all other signatories