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Agreement Between the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

The Friuli Venezia Giulia Region headquartered in Presidenza della Regione, Piazza Unità d'Italia 1 34121 Trieste and represented by the Region's President Massimiliano Fedriga

The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) headquartered in Via Bonomea 265 34136 Trieste and represented by the SISSA's Director Stefano Ruffo

The University of study of Trieste headquartered in Piazzale Europa 1 34127 Trieste and represented by the University of Trieste Dean Roberto Di Lenarda

The University of study of Udine headquartered in Via Palladio 8 33100 Udine and represented by the University of Udine Dean Roberto Pinton

And

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) headquartered in 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, represented by Glen Shor, Vice President for Finance

Wishing to extend the collaboration named "FVG-MIT Project" in order to facilitate exchanges and collaborations

Agree on what follows

ARTICLE 1: OBJECT

The FVG-MIT Project is a collaboration between the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region (FVG) and the MIT Italy Program. The purpose of the FVG-MIT-Italy Project is to facilitate scientific exchanges between MIT and the University of Udine, the University of Trieste, and SISSA.

Scientific exchanges between MIT faculties and their counterparts at the above FVG universities already exist. The FVG-MIT project intends to expand and deepen them through new initiatives that will give them critical mass and increase their visibility and impact.

In the belief that partnerships are best served when knowledge, creativity and researchers flow evenly, the FVG-MIT Project will actively promote joint collaborations and two ways exchanges.

ARTICLE 2: ACTIVITIES

The FVG-MIT Project will focus on the scientific areas where overlapping interests and complementary skills exist among the University of Udine, Trieste and SISSA and their MIT counterparts.

In keeping with the United Nations 2030 Agenda on sustainable development- broadly understood as including economic inclusion and diversity; environment protection in a fair and peaceful institutional setting-- we especially welcome projects in these areas.

In order to expand the reach of the collaboration and valorise the FVG research potential other Research Institutions of the Scientific and Innovation System of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (SIS FVG) may also participate in the collaboration in partnership with the original FVG signatories.

The FVG-MIT Project will support four types of activities:

- Seed Funds to promote new collaboration between the FVG Universities and scientific institutions and their MIT colleagues. Proposals will be submitted jointly by two PI's: one from one of the above mentioned universities and one from MIT. Grants will privilege new collaborations, with maximum funding of 25,000 dollars. Funds can be used for traveling and lodging costs of participating faculty and students, but cannot be used for long terms stays and materials. The FVG-MIT seed fund will follow the same deadlines and procedures that govern the other MIT Global seed funds. The MIT Italy Program will help creating contacts between FVG and MIT faculties with similar interests.
- Internships for MIT students at FVG universities and SIS FVG scientific institutions working on projects of common interest. Candidacies will be collected by the MIT-Italy Program and submitted to the relevant FVG research group for approval.
- Travel grants of 2,500 dollars for FVG faculties interested in exploring collaboration opportunities with MIT colleagues and vice versa –usually in preparation of a seed fund application. In either case, eligibility depends on participation in a public event organized by the host department (at a FVG university for a MIT faculty, at MIT for a FVG faculty).
- One yearly meeting at MIT or one of the FVG universities in concomitance with the advisory board meeting, to showcase the Project scientific achievements and make it better known.

ARTICLE 3: GOVERNANCE

The FVG-MIT Project will be managed by the MIT-ITALY Program in accordance with the directions set by the Board.

The Board will be composed of 2 Region FVG representatives, 1 rotating representative of the FVG Universities and 3 MIT representatives. One of the MIT representatives will serve as Chair and cast the decisive vote if necessary. The members of the Board will be nominated or removed by their respective institutions, subject only to formal notification to the directors of the MIT Italy Program.

The Board will meet, in person or virtually, once a year to assess the performance of the program, review and approve its budget and set out broad directives for the future including the fields it may choose to prioritize. Project proposals will be evaluated by MIT faculty, as with all the other MIT Global Seed Funds proposals, with the MIT members of the FVG –Board finalizing the selection of specific proposals.

ARTICLE 4: DURATION

This present agreement will come into force after the signature and will have a duration of 3 years. The agreement may be renewed for further periods by mutual written consent of the parties. The FVG-MIT agreement may be terminated by any of the partners. The collaboration will end six months after the Board receives a written request by the terminating partner. During the six months following the termination request, the FVG-MIT project will continue functioning according to its stated rules.

ARTICLE 5: FINANCE

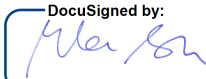
Funding for this collaboration in the amount of 100,000 euros will be made available to the MIT-Italy Program by FVG Region--through SISSA, one of the participating research Institutions. FVG Region will also provide additional funds –in the amount of 50,000 euros —that will be distributed through SISSA to FVG faculty in further support of FVG-MIT collaboration. Funding must be made available each year in advance of the September FVG-MIT global seed fund call.

Unused funds from the previous year will concur to the funding of the newly budgeted activities.

Funds going to MIT will be deposited in one account which will be managed by the MIT-Italy Program which will also produce a yearly budget for the Board's review. Ten percent of the annual transfer to MIT will be used for the administrative costs of running this program.

Firmato digitalmente da:Massimiliano Fedriga
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Massimiliano Fedriga
Friuli Venezia Giulia Region President

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Glen Shor
Vice President for Finance
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Digitally signed by: RUFFO STEFANO
Date: 29/07/2020 17:15:52

Firmato digitalmente da:Roberto Di Lenarda
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Stefano Ruffo

SISSA

Roberto di Lenarda

University of Trieste

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Roberto Pinton

University of Udine