



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between**

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Applied Philosophy  
Research Laboratory

**and**

Merg Foundation for Training and Strategic Studies

## **I. Preamble**

In Athens today, Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2022, in the office of Evangelos D. Protopapadakis, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Applied Philosophy Research Laboratory represented by its Director, Associate Professor Evangelos D. Protopapadakis, and Merg Foundation for Training and Strategic Studies, Iraq represented by its President, Hemin Khasrow [hereafter: the Partners], sign this Memorandum of Understanding [hereafter: MoU].

## **II. The partners**

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Applied Philosophy Research Laboratory was established in 1999 as an autonomous unit attached to the Department of Philosophy of the University of Athens. The initial purpose of the Lab's establishment was to facilitate research in the area of applied philosophy and provide teaching support to students and faculty members in both graduate and post-graduate level of studies. The Lab is also committed to conduct empirical and/or theoretical research in all areas of philosophy, with particular focus on Ethics, Metaethics and Applied Ethics. To this purpose the Lab seeks to foster collaborations with other Laboratories, Research Centers or Units, as well as with international organizations and societies. The Lab seeks to further and convey knowledge on areas of philosophical research by means of hosting post-graduate programs of study, publishing works of original philosophical research as well as journals, and organizing conferences.

Merg Foundation for Training and Strategic Studies is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit policy institute dedicated to advancing constructive dialogue on Iraq and Kurdistan Region's place in the world. MERG acts as a venue for dialogue and cooperation among decision-makers, policy experts, and research and educational institutions to develop sound solutions to the most complex economic and sociopolitical issues facing the Kurdistan Region and Iraq as a whole. As a bridge-building institution between Kurdistan/Iraq and the rest of the world, we believe that the challenges of today are local in nature, yet transnational in solutions. Hence, we are committed to advancing and multiplying partnerships with key stakeholders from the worlds of statecraft, diplomacy, industry and academia from Europe, North America and the MENA region.

## **III. Purpose**

This MoU sets forth the will and resolution of the Partners to:

1. Establish bilateral collaboration in all areas of philosophy.
2. Pursue and undertake common actions and projects as privileged partners.
3. Extend mutual invitations for academic purposes.
4. Participate in European and international framework programs and projects as privileged partners.
5. Facilitate students and staff mobility by virtue of bilateral, European or other mobility agreements.

## **IV. Activities**

The Partners will seek the accomplishment of the above purposes by undertaking the following activities:

1. Internship Programs for Iraqi Students in The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Applied Philosophy Research Laboratory: Professional training in the areas of Applied Ethics offered to selected young professionals and post-graduates from different Iraqi Universities.
2. Visiting/residency program for Greek Students and researchers in Iraqi Kurdistan facilitated by Merg Foundation: Merg Foundation will provide the opportunity for Greek students, researchers, and/or fellows to visit Kurdistan so they conduct research on approved topics while in residence.
3. Joint conferences and round-tables in Iraq and Greece: Collaborative work on developing annual conferences and/or periodic roundtables in Greece or Iraq intended to bring policy makers, professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders together on matters related to the objectives of both parties.

And,

4. Any other activity that would comply with the purposes of this MoU after mutual consent.

## **V. Transparency and compliance with law**

1. The Parties are committed to transparency and acknowledge that this MoU will be a public document and consequently either Party may publish information regarding any cooperation activities made pursuant to this MoU.
2. The Parties agree to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances, rules, consent decrees or statutes enacted in the respective countries and jurisdictions.  
Each Party hereby undertakes that itself, its directors, officers or employees will comply with all applicable anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and that it has taken reasonable measures to prevent any non-compliance with the said laws.
3. The Parties are committed to and will cooperate to ensure that any activity undertaken pursuant to this MoU is not subject to fraud, and that any in-kind or other support is not misused. For the purposes of this MoU, 'fraud' means dishonestly obtaining a benefit, or causing a loss, by deception or other means, and includes alleged, attempted, suspect or detected fraud.
4. If either Party becomes aware of a fraud in connection with managing or delivering shared cooperation activities, it will report the matter to the other Party in writing within five (5) business days.
5. The Parties will carry out cooperation activities under this MoU with full respect to each Party's domestic laws and international obligations.

## **VI. Applicable law and settlement disputes**

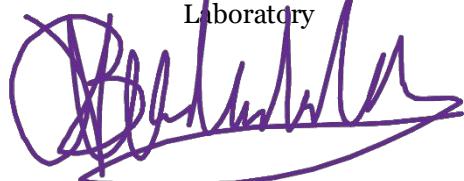
1. This MOU is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Greece, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of law.
2. The Parties shall make every effort to settle amicably any dispute related to this MOU. Any dispute arising that is not resolved between the Parties within 60 calendar days shall be finally settled in Court and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Athens.
3. This section shall survive the termination or expiration of this MOU until all rights and obligations of the Parties under this MOU have ceased and have been discharged.

## **VII. Term**

This MoU will remain valid for two years henceforth; it may be reviewed and amended by mutual written consent. It may also be extended by mutual agreement.

Athens, 22.07.2022

For the NKUA Applied Philosophy Research

A purple ink signature consisting of several loops and vertical strokes, enclosed in a purple oval.

The Director

Evangelos D. Protopapadakis  
Assistant Professor, National and  
Kapodistrian University of Athens

For Merg Foundation for Training and  
Strategic Studies

A green ink signature enclosed in a green oval.

The President  
Hemin Khasrow