







Memorandum of Understanding

For Viable Macro-regional Cooperation of Research Infrastructures After the Closure of the Baltic TRAM Project





1. Rationale

- 1.1. The overarching goal of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter MoU) is to express support and commitment towards multilateral collaboration among the signatory parties (hereafter Parties) within the capabilities of each partner. This is to strengthen the macroregional and pan-European competitiveness in a global context through improved incentives, which are tailored for science-business cooperation. The Parties do so by seeking to bolster the relationship between (analytical) research institutions and businesses by exploring opportunities and enabling structures that facilitate cooperation between companies and researchers; as well as by linking expertise to concrete industrial needs.
- 1.2. This MoU is approved with consideration to the European Union's aspirations to turn into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy via the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. More specifically, this MoU is aimed at advancing smart growth and the flagship initiative Innovation Union. It aims to do so by paying attention to the continuous need to develop regional, national and transnational innovation systems, which foster excellence and smart specialisation to the extent possible, by facilitating cooperation between universities, research and business.
- 1.3. This MoU is prepared and approved by the Parties with full awareness and appreciation of the high-level guidance enshrined in the Council of the Baltic Sea States (hereafter CBSS) Chair's Conclusions "Baltic Science: Renewing the Commitment to Science / Research Joint Actions in the Baltic Sea Region" and the Resolution of the 26th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.
- **1.4.** This MoU is agreed and approved by the Parties in view of its being a subject of consideration among the leadership of the Ministries of the CBSS Member States ahead of the CBSS High Level Meeting on Science planned to take place in February 2019.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The objective of this MoU is based on a shared willingness to develop and strengthen science-business cooperation jointly defined, established and successfully implemented during the Baltic TRAM project time frame (April 2016 February 2019). This support for science-business cooperation is in line with the regional, national, transnational and European policy goal of fostering innovation. It does so by supporting the cooperation between different actors of the innovation systems through helping them address the needs of science, industry and society alike. Combining the strength and expertise of various actors is the key to finding solutions to challenges of our time.
- 2.2. This MoU outlines certain possibilities and enabling structures for cooperation between companies and researchers. Such joint activities would be explored according to the corresponding guidelines and available measures on regional, national, macro-regional and European levels.
- **2.3.** Parties declare their shared readiness to the extent possible to explore further suggestions for new jointly implementable measures to support (ad hoc) cooperation (particularly tailored for





the needs of SMEs) on regional, national and transnational levels, as well as the continuous operation of the Network of Industrial Research Centres (hereafter IReCNet), within the Baltic Sea Region and the European Union, possibly guided by a "structured framework" and a jointly maintained digital platform.

2.4. The consortium formed by the Parties of this MoU does not form a legally binding entity in that the consortium itself is not a legal person, and therefore cannot conclude binding contracts with third parties. Should further consultations among the Parties lead to a recognition of the need to ensure a more solid basis for sustainable operation of the IReCNet, a legally binding framework would be a subject for joint consultations and decision-making.

3. Commencement, duration and termination

- **3.1.** This MoU comes into effect after at least three parties have submitted the signed hard copy of the form found in the annex.
- **3.2.** The duration of this MoU is five (5) years after its entry into force. It will then be extended automatically for an additional five (5) years, unless a termination decision is taken.
- **3.3.** This MoU may be terminated by a joint agreement within six (6) months after such a joint decision.
- **3.4.** Parties have the right to withdraw from this MoU. The withdrawal should be communicated via a two (2)-month advance notification in writing.
- 3.5. This MoU exists in two (2) sets one full original set kept by the Baltic TRAM Lead Partner and fourteen (14) partial sets of originals kept by each of the Parties of the MoU. The first set is the full documentation of this MoU in a single hard copy, meaning the main body of text and originals of all signed annexes are stored at the Lead Partner institution of the Baltic TRAM project. The Baltic TRAM Lead Partner is entitled to ensure all other Parties with a scanned soft copy of the full original (kept at the Baltic TRAM Lead Partner's repository of documentation). The second set is the main body of this MoU and the second original annex of signatures kept as a hard copy by each of the Parties.

Following the spirit of the Baltic TRAM project on encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship by improving and advancing the possibilities of science-business cooperation in the near future, the signatory parties of this MoU see a great advantage to working together on the above-mentioned ideas.

¹ The term "structured framework" refers to the MoU being the declaration of intent to explore the future implementation of principles that will guide the network. These might include jointly agreed documents like "Terms of Cooperation of the Network of Industrial Research Centres" and "IReCNet Principles of Data Management" developed on the basis of lessons learnt after the implementation of the Baltic TRAM open data pilot.





ANNEX

For the project partner no° 2: University of Latvia

Valdis Segliņš
Name
Vice-rector for Exact, Life and Medical Sciences
Title
Signature and stamp (if available)
Place, date
Riga, 11th of February 2019





For the project partner no° 3: University of Turku

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Turku Place, date	15	Febr	uary	2019





For the project partner no° 4: Kainuun Etu Itd

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For the project partner no° 6: University of Southern Denmark

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Place, date	Place, date





For the project partner no° 7: Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht Zentrum für Material- und Küstenforschung GmbH

Prof. Wolfgang Kaysser Scientific Director	Kay Bern
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For the project partner no° 9: Jagiellonian University

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For the project partner no° 10: Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences

ROMAN PUZNIAK	
Name	Name
Director of the Institute	
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Instytutu Fizyki PAN	
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For the project partner noº 11: Foundation of Innovative Initiatives

Krzysztof Biel	Piotr Piwowarczyk
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For the project partner no° 13: University of Tartu

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For the project partner no° 14: Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

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For the project partner no° 17: Kaunas Science and Technology Park

Paulius Nezabitauskas	Vygentas Ginis
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Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development	Director
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For the associated organisation no° 2: European X-Ray Free-Electron Laser Facility GmbH

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Chairperson of the Management Board and Managing Disector

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