



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**University of Algarve – CRIA – Division of Entrepreneurship and
Technology Transfer**
(UAlg)

and

**Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of
Seville**
(CCSEV)

and

Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions
(e-ZAVOD)

and

Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Rijeka
(EFRI)

and

Network of the Insular CCI of the European Union
(INSULEUR)

and

Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry
(CCCI)

With the aim of setting up a collaboration framework for the creation of the Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points in their regions and to reinforce the links between them to exchange information and explore synergies

ARTICLE 1 - IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTIES

1. University of Algarve – CRIA – Division of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer (UALg)

UALg promotes a policy that gives privilege to the connection between universities and companies, focusing on research, innovation and entrepreneurship as catalysts for the transfer of knowledge, boosting regional competitiveness and economic growth in Portugal. CRIA - Division of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer of the University of Algarve, assumes as its main mission the validation and valorization of the knowledge generated in the research centers, study centers and other R&D units (Research and Technological Development), promoting an effective interaction between the University and the business sector, facilitating their transfer to the market.

2. Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of Seville (CCSEV)

The Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of Seville is a non-profit public corporation established as an advisory body to collaborate with public authorities. CCSEV promotes services to business including internationalization, innovation and entrepreneurship and employment, in close collaboration with the regional government of Andalusia. The Chamber of Commerce of Seville has also a wide training programme addressed to companies, entrepreneurs, professionals, employees and unemployed including young people.

3. Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions (e-ZAVOD)

E-Zavod is a non-profit institute with mission to improve human well-being through sustainable development. Actions are implemented through projects focusing on business support, open innovation and sustainable energy. The key competences are in open innovation, living labs, sustainability assessments, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Recent focus of E-zavod's work has been done to support Smart communities and develop regional economy towards Innovation 2.0 concept and bring it even on the higher level.

4. Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Rijeka (EFRI)

The Faculty of Economics and Business in Rijeka is a modern institution which performs undergraduate, graduate and various post-graduate study programmes in the field of Economics and Business. The Faculty was among to first to introduce scientifically based contents, courses and research work in Croatia, found-ed on the theory and practice of Economic association and

Integration of countries and their respective economies. The Faculty collaborate with eminent foreign universities, both in the field of research and organization of joint conferences, student exchange, summer schools and other. Faculty participated in various international projects, applying for funds within IPA, ESF, FP7, SEE Transnational and lifelong learning programmes, especially within the European LLP Jean Monnet programmes, and are a member of AACSB, EFMD, working hard to get EFMD, EQUIS and AACSB accreditations.

5. Network of the Insular CCI of the European Union (INSULEUR)

The Network of the Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the European Union (INSULEUR) is a not-for-profit association set up in compliance with Greek law which oversees the close cooperation between insular Chambers of Commerce in the EU and aims to promote the economic and social development of islands in the EU. The Network headquarter is located in Chios (Greece). In addition to the ordinary members, any legal entity whose main aim is the development of insular regions in the EU may be registered as a associate member of the Network. The Network has permanent representation at European Union institutions in Brussels.

6. Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI)

The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a private corporate body functioning under special law and is financially independent, free of any influence by the state. The Chamber is funded by its members' subscription fees and through income generated from a number of services it provides. The CCCI is the union of Cypriot business people, the interests of whom it promotes by submitting to the government and the Parliament the members' positions on matters in which they are involved, while, through its participation in tripartite bodies and committees, it conveys and promotes the views of the business community.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECT OF THE MoU

The main objective of the MoU is to set up a collaboration framework to establish the Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points in Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece and Cyprus in the framework of the Project BLUE CROWDFUNDING – "*Capacity Building of BLUE Economy Stakeholders to Effectively use CROWDFUNDING*", approved by the Interreg MED Programme.

This MoU formalizes the framework of partnership between the parties. Its purpose is to establish a mutually beneficial relationship which fosters the development and growth of each of the parties in the establishment and development of the Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points (BCFPs).

ARTICLE 3 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BLUE CROWDFUNDING FOCAL POINTS

As indicated in the Application Form of the Blue Crowdfunding Project and in accordance with the deliverable 4.1.3 - "Establishment and operation of Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points", related to Activity 4.1 "Establishment sustainable supporting system for blue crowdfunding of SMEs", the business support institutions that are parties in the Project (LP e-ZAVID, PP1 INSULEUR, PP2 CCSEV, PP5 UAlg, PP6 CCCI and PP11 EFRI) will establish Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points within their institutions.

The Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points will be created by signing this MoU by the parties and will be located in the following countries:

Focal Point	Location	Partner responsible
1	Portugal	University of Algarve
2	Spain	Chamber of Commerce of Seville
3	Slovenia	E-Zavod
4	Croatia	EFRI
5	Greece	INSULEUR
6	Cyprus	Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ARTICLE 4 – DELIVERED SERVICES BY THE BLUE CROWDFUNDING FOCAL POINTS

Following the Application Form, the Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points will be established as first-stop shops addressing the needs of SMEs, where support services including capacity building activities related to crowdfunding will be offered. The services offered by the Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points will include:

- **Knowledge and market access** – First-stop shop services on crowdfunding legal advice, choice of appropriate crowdfunding method, selection of platforms, assessing the "crowdfundability" of blue economy ideas.

- **Capacity building** - Trainings for SMEs based on the 3 modules developed under the Blue Crowdfunding project WP3.
- **International partnering** - Connection with companies from abroad to develop innovative products/services and improve CF success chances.
- **Financial opportunities** - Focusing on crowdfunding as innovative funding and fund-matching as access to ERDF/ESF funds.
- **International cooperation and networking** - Access to cluster network and to mainstream the knowledge.

List of activities to be carried out by the 6 Blue Crowdfunding Focal Points (BCFPs):

- Provision of contacts and information about support organizations and platforms in each country that are offering crowdfunding services
- Provision of information about the Blue Crowdfunding Project activities
- Organization and implementation of trainings on the topic of crowdfunding
- Organization of crowdfunding events
- Cooperation with other projects related to crowdfunding
- Organization of awareness raising activities of crowdfunding campaigns undertaken both within the Blue Crowdfunding project as well as outside the project
- Participation in international and national events related to crowdfunding
- Promotion and assistance for joining the International Blue Crowdfunding Cluster
- Provision of train the trainers program and certification system for crowdfunding experts

ARTICLE 5 – ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT

This MoU does not intend to create a legal relationship between the parties nor to impose formal relations between the entities. According to the administrative nature of this kind of agreements, none of the dispositions included in this MoU shall interfere in no way in the independent decision taking of the parties with regards to their respective operations. More specifically, no content whatsoever of this MoU aims at going against or modifying the terms of the specific mandates of each party or their norms and legal statutory provisions.

ARTICLE 6 – DATE OF EFFECT AND DURATION

This MoU shall come into effect on June 30th, 2021 and it is established for a period of 1 year. The MoU may be extended by tacit agreement between the signatory parties.

ARTICLE 7 – REVISION AND TERMINATION

This MoU may be changed by amendment by written and signed mutual agreement between parties.

A party may withdraw from the partnership with one month written notice.

Any dispute over this MoU shall be settled by amicable negotiation.

ARTICLE 8 – CORRESPONDANCE

The notification between the parties related to the activities carried out under the framework of this MoU shall be done at the following contact:

University of Algarve – CRIA – Division of Entrepreneurship and
Technology Transfer
Campus de Gambelas Pavilhão B1
8005-139 Faro
E-mail: ssimaginario@ualg.pt

Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of
Seville
Plaza de la Contratación, 8
41004 – Sevilla (Spain)
E-mail: javier.cuesta@camaradesevilla.com

E-Zavod - Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions
Cucova Ulica 5
2250, Ptuj
E-mail: anja@ezavod.si

Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Rijeka
Ivana Filipovica 4
Hr-51000, Rijeka
E-mail: marko.tomljanovic@efri.hr, dekanat@efri.hr, efri@efri.hr

INSULEUR - Network of the Insular CCI of the European Union
Michail Livanou 52
82100, Chios
E-mail: mikelis.irene@gmail.com

Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry
38, grivas dhigenis and 3, deligiorgis str. POBox 21455
1509, Nicosia
E-mail: demetrap@ccci.org.cy

Consequently, and in consideration of the foregoing, this Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the parties and shall come into force on June 30th, 2021.

Signed by and on behalf of

**University of Algarve – CRIA – Division of Entrepreneurship and
Technology Transfer**

Maria Alexandra Anica Teodósio
Vice-Rector for Research and Internationalization

Signed by and on behalf of

**Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of
Seville**

Salvador Fernández Salas
Director Gerente – General Manager

Signed by and on behalf of

Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions

[NAME]
[POSITION]

Signed by and on behalf of

Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Rijeka



Full Professor Alen Host, PhD
Dean of the Faculty

CLARS: 641-02/20-04/02

REG. NO: 2170-Str-01-21-4

Signed by and on behalf of the Network of

Insular CCI of the European Union

[NAME]
[POSITION]

Signed by and on behalf of

Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry

[NAME]
[POSITION]