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# MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION ON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

BETWEEN

**SCUOLA SUPERIORE MERIDIONALE**

AND

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY - FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW**

The **Scuola Superiore Meridionale**, located in via Mezzocannone 4, 80134, Napoli, Italy, here represented by its Responsible, **Prof. Arturo De Vivo**, and **The Open University, Faculty of Business and Law**, located in Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom, represented by its Executive Dean **Professor Mark Durkin**, and hereinafter referred to as Parties,

intending to strengthen cooperation in the field of management, business organization, law and education, acknowledging importance of partnership based on the principles of voluntary participation, equality, common good and reciprocity, subject to the availability of resources provided to fulfill cooperation between the Parties, agreed on the following:

## Article 1

## Goals

Main goals of this Memorandum are:

- establish a comprehensive framework for cooperation in management, business organization, law, and education between the Parties;
- address global and regional challenges through shared expertise, complementary capabilities, and collaborative solutions;
- generate and disseminate new knowledge while developing innovative products and services in management, business organization, law, and education, contingent upon resources available to the Parties;
- foster strategic partnerships between the Parties in management, business organization, law, and education when mutually beneficial.

## Article 2

## Areas of cooperation

2.1 Main areas of cooperation under this Memorandum include (but are not limited to) the following areas:

- Visits and exchange of University teaching and administrative staff and students;
- To explore and promote co-operation and collaboration in the fields of teaching and research;
- Discussion of areas of mutual interests, including the possibility of exploring joint programs, double degree agreements and other activities mutually beneficial to both parties;
- Discuss possibilities of research exchange, joint publications and research grant applications.

2.2 Cooperation between the two institutions will be developed in the following fields:

- **Organizational Studies and Law**
- **Disability in Organizations**
- **Sociomateriality and Embodiment in Technology**
- **Inclusion and Diversity Management**

2.3 A timetable for progressing developments will be agreed between the two institutions.

2.4 Each party assigns a key contact person to be responsible for the execution of this memorandum.

- **Key contact person for Scuola Superiore Meridionale:**

**Coordinator of Law and Organizational Studies for the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion (LOSPD) area,**

**Prof. Luigi Maria Sicca**

Email: lumsicca@unina.it

Administrative contact: Antonio Ferrara, u.ricerca@ssmeridionale.it, Scuola Superiore Meridionale

- **Key contact person for The Open University:**

**Academic coordinator: Prof. Cinzia Priola**

Email: cinzia.priola@open.ac.uk

Administrative contact: Karen McKafferty, karen.mccafferty@open.ac.uk

## Article 3

## Mechanisms and forms of cooperation

The main mechanism of cooperation is this Memorandum.

The following forms of cooperation are applicable under this Memorandum and agreements/work programs concluded under that framework:

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- organization of summer schools, workshops, symposia, and conferences based on common interest in the field of management, business organization, law, and education;
- visiting programmes for academic staff and researchers;
- joint supervision of PhD students;
- develop joint doctoral programs, double degree agreements and scientific and research projects.

Any cooperative arrangements set up under the framework of this MOU will be the subject of separate and specific formal agreements mutually agreed by authorized signatories of each party, describing the terms of the arrangement including any financial aspects.

Both parties acknowledge that a visit by students or employees from one institution to the other shall be subject to the entry and visa regulations of their respective countries and shall comply with the policies and procedures of each institution.

University teaching, administrative staff, and students sent by one institution to the other will be required to possess medical, and commercial general liability insurance (or equivalent as agreed between the institutions). This may be provided either by their home institution, according to its own regulations, or by the visiting institution according to the specified agreement.

Visiting scholars will be required to comply with the regulations regarding occupational health and workplace safety in place at the institution they will be visiting.

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## Article 4

## Mechanisms and forms of financing

Cooperation in the field of business and management, organization studies, law, and education in the framework of this Memorandum will be supported by appropriate mechanisms and forms of financing which are agreed on by the Parties in supplementary agreements and work programs.

The Scuola Superiore Meridionale might contribute to the expenses for the mobility of teaching, technical and administrative staff and the mobility of students, in compliance with its regulations. It is understood that the scope of activities under this MOU will be subject to the availability of funds at each institution for the types of collaboration undertaken and by such other financial assistance as may be obtained by either institution from external sources.

This MOU does not provide or guarantee any financial support and does not create any financial liability or commitment for either of the parties. Neither party will have the right to commit the other party to any financial obligation.

## Article 5

## Control of intellectual property rights

Conditions of acquisition, maintenance and use of intellectual property rights regarding the possible products and (or) processes which may be a result of this Memorandum should be a subject of supplementary agreements and work programs in the framework of cooperation.

Neither party will use any name, logo, trademark, or other designation of the other party or any of its affiliates for any purpose, including without limitation in any marketing, advertising, or publicity materials, without such party's prior written consent.

## Article 6

## Conclusion

The Memorandum enters into force from the date of signing and is valid within **5 (five) years** and it is renewable, subject to approval by both parties.

Contents of this Memorandum may be changed by the mutual agreement between the Parties.

Any Party at any time may inform another Party about its intention to terminate this Memorandum. In this case the termination shall take effect in 6 (six) months after the date of notification and shall not include ongoing activities in the cooperation framework unless the Parties have mutually decided otherwise.

The Parties shall commit themselves to solving any dispute connected to the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum through direct negotiations. In case of disputes on the interpretation of the Protocol, the Parties shall use the text in the English language.

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**FOR SCUOLA SUPERIORE MERIDIONALE**

**[Signature Space]**

**Responsible**

**Professor Arturo De Vivo**

Date: 1st July 2026

Firmato digitalmente da
Arturo De Vivo
CN = De Vivo Arturo
SerialNumber = TINIT-DVVRTR50R04D789J
C = IT

**FOR THE OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**Dr Francesca Calò**

**Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law**

Date: 29 May 2026