



Development of a formal BRIDGES Network

Memorandum of Understanding for 2023-2026 years

Project BRIDGES OF TRADE "BRIDGES"

This output is related to the project result BRIDGES Network (activity A.T2.3): Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed and Action Plan of the BRIDGES Network. Project Deliverable D.T2.3.1 BRIDGES Network (activity A.T2.3) and Project Output O.T2.3 Trading Bridges Network.

Responsible partner: Local Public Authority "Çatalca District Governorate", Turkish Partner

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By this document **five partners of BRIDGES OF TRADE "BRIDGES" project** (hereinafter referred to as '**Contracting Parties**') agree to formalise the BRIDGES community into a **formal BRIDGES network** (hereafter **Network**). Here are the Contracting Parties:

- 1 - Municipality of Nestos (Greece)
- 2 - Association of Cross-border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion" (Romania)
- 3 - Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Armenia (Armenia)
- 4 - City Hall of Bălți Municipality (Moldova)
- 5 - Çatalca District Governorate (Türkiye)

The terms of this Memorandum are as follows:

ARTICLE 1. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE NETWORK

In order for sustainability, transferability and springboard and multiplier effect to be ensured, the parties involved in the project (partners', SMEs, business support organisations) are forming the official network (BRIDGES Network). The main aim of this network is the **CAPITALISATION** of the project results and outputs. Specifically:

- The exchange of knowledge and experiences between parties of this document;
- The spread of the outputs to other SMEs in the partners' regions (transferability, multiplier effect);
- The expansion of the project beyond its implementation period and on a wider geographical area (transferability, multiplier effect, sustainability);
- The continuous contact and the creation of business links between the network's members in other fields of cooperation (springboard).

The steps for approaching this idea are the following:

- Composition of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the Network in consultation with all parties;
- Draw up of the new 3-year action plan in consultation with all parties.



ARTICLE 2. THE SCOPE

The scope of interests of the Network includes, but is not limited to, the following areas:

1. The modernisation and extroversion of businesses, especially in agricultural and connected sectors.
2. Innovation and entrepreneurship, start-ups, social entrepreneurship in the field of agricultural and connected sectors.
3. Increasing cross-border links for trade and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors.
4. Cooperation of SMEs with CSOs, NGOs that are focusing their mission on advancement of the agricultural and connected sectors.
5. Support of SMEs in the framework of the world around challenges (through ICT based training tools and mentoring).
6. Stimulation of SMEs to follow the Sustainable Development Goals and principles, also known as the Global Goals, that were adopted by the United Nations.
7. Awareness raising of global market trends in agricultural and connected sectors.
8. Others, as defined, concluded and agreed by the Board.

This MoU should not limit any type of formal agreement or obligation. Instead, it is an agreement between the Parties to work together in such a manner to encourage an atmosphere of collaboration and alliance in the support of an effective and efficient partnership to establish and maintain objectives and commitments with regards to all matters related to agro and connected sectors SMEs development as well as improvement of management.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS (ORGANISATIONS, INDIVIDUALS, COUNTRIES)

The Members of the BRIDGES Network include, but are not limited to the Contracting Parties, SMEs, business support organisations and other interested parties (e.g. young entrepreneurs, students and tutors of economic, management and agro specialties, general public) from the partner countries (Greece, Romania, Armenia, Moldova, Turkey), as well as from other countries, depending on the consent of all the Contracting Parties.



ARTICLE 4. GOVERNANCE

The Network is governed by the **Board** and **Committees** formed by the Board.

Subarticle 4a. The Board

The Board will consist of Members from the Contracting Parties, i.e. five members, having maximum one representative from each Partner. The composition of the Board could be changed annually during the online or offline voting. The Board Members can also nominate the people actively contributing to the Network as Members. The first Board consists of the following Representatives:

1. Emilia Doncheva, Greece
2. Natalia-Florentina Budescu- Sălceanu, Romania
3. Vladimir Armiryan, Armenia
4. Eleonora Blaj, Moldova
5. Ali Mulcar, Turkey

Subarticle 4b. Committees

The Board forms Committees which are responsible for specific areas, e.g. idea generation, fundraising, administration, etc. The composition mechanism of committees will be decided by the Board.

ARTICLE 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, COMMITMENTS

Subarticle 5a. Roles and responsibilities of Parties

1. Representative of Municipality of Nestos (Greece) will set the dates for regular meetings of the BRIDGES Network and propose the topics, and agendas; will propose fundraising activities;
2. Representative of Çatalca District Governorate (Turkey) will collect and keep special register of information from the Parties (from regular meetings of the BRIDGES Network; collect and keep register of designed common project proposals and regional programs);
3. Representative of City Hall of Bălți Municipality (Moldova) will search for opportunities to act together in creation of new business links among SMEs, experience exchange and possibility to expand the Network to a wider geographical area;



4. Representative of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Armenia (Armenia) will promote BRIDGES Network achievements, actions and conducted meetings via publications on the website and social networks of BRIDGES project;
5. Representative of Association of Cross-border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion" (Romania) will search for fundraising activities for members of BRIDGES Network.

Subarticle 5b. Commitments of Members

Membership of the Network is free of charge.

By signing this MoU, Members commit to support and contribute to the activities of the BRIDGES Network and act in the following directions:

1. Constant communication and contact with one another via email, phone, messengers, platforms for online meetings, offline meetings (if the case),
2. Provide one another with new useful information and share with the knowledge and experience regarding the topics of interest to the Network,
3. Disseminate information about the Network to partner organizations and beneficiary groups of the Network Members to encourage and assist to become Members of the Network,
4. Planning permanent collaboration, share opportunities for common activities and other cooperation,
5. Search for and exchange relevant information, documents, publications or relevant sources and websites related to the areas of interest to the Network,
6. Development of promotional activities to spread information regarding the Network, its purpose and mission, activities and instruction how to become a part of the Network,
7. Organizing regular meetings online and offline, workshops, online lessons, and other activities for strengthening the exchanges and cooperation among the Members of the Network.

ARTICLE 6. VALUES, PRINCIPLES AND BELIEFS

The Network bears the following values: respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. In addition, the Network will operate based on the principles of the open innovation, mutual benefit and cultural respect.

The Network believes in the importance of cognitive diversity, as different people bring diverse, different perspectives, data, training, experiences to the table.



ARTICLE 7. LANGUAGE

Official working language is English. However, the Members of the Network can use other languages as secondary languages in their communication within the Network.

ARTICLE 8. POSSESSIONS

This Network possesses all the deliverables created by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 9. MEMORANDUM DURATION


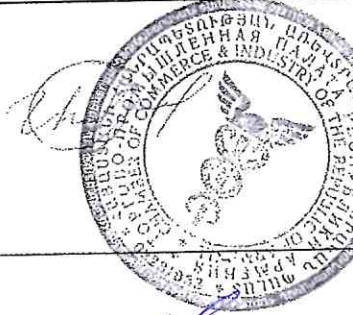
This Memorandum shall come into force on the date of its signing and shall be in force for the period of three years. This Memorandum shall automatically be extended for another three-year period unless one of the Contracting Parties notifies the others in writing at least one month in advance of its intention to terminate this Memorandum.

ARTICLE 10. APPENDIX TO THE MEMORANDUM

The Action plan for three years is the official appendix to this Memorandum.

CONFIRMATION (SIGNATURE PAGE)

The Memorandum of Understanding is between the following five Contracting Parties:

No	Partner organisations	Partner country	Signatures (including digital) and seals
1	Municipality of Nestos Signee: Emilia Doncheva, project expert, emmy_doncheva@yahoo.com	Greece	 <i>Emilia Doncheva</i>
2	Association of Cross-border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion" Signee: Natalia-Florentina Budescu- Sălceanu, director ACTEDJ, actedj@gmail.com	Romania	Florentina a-Natalia Budescu- Salceanu Digitally signed by Florentina- Natalia Budescu- Salceanu Date: 2023.02.28 10:41:02 +02'00'
3	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Armenia Signee: Vladimir Amiryan, operational director CCI of RA	Armenia	
4	City Hall of Bălți Municipality Signee: Eleonora Blaj, senior specialist in the External Relations and Investment Attraction Directorate, invest.balti@gmail.com	Moldova	<i>Eleonora Blaj</i>
5	Çatalca District Governorate Signee: Ali Mulcar, project coordinator, alimulcar@hotmail.com	Turkey	<i>Ali Mulcar</i>