

Addendum
To the
Memorandum of Understanding
between
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
and
University of Geneva

This Addendum provides for updates to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the University of Geneva (UNIGE) on 25 January 2018. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the University of Geneva will be referred to as 'Parties' hereafter.

Objective

1. The objective of this Addendum is to establish a Centre of Excellence. For the purposes of this Addendum, Centre of Excellence is a shared facility that develops best practices, research, support, and/or training on smart sustainable cities and sustainable urban development and promotes the implementation of the principles of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (the Charter).
2. This Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding also provides a framework within which the Parties can develop and undertake collaborative activities and projects to promote the principles of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing through the Centre of Excellence.

Responsibilities of the Parties

3. UNIGE, the partner organization hosting the Center of Excellence, will undertake the following activities:
 - (a) Development of curriculum for and organisation of training and capacity building activities targeted to the UNECE member States, academia and other stakeholders. This will be done among others through the UNIGE's "i2i Hub for Innovation and Intrapreneurship in International Organizations" aimed at catalyzing innovation initiatives across organizations; the university Global Environmental Policy Programme (GEPP), and collaboration with the university's International Organizations MBA Programme and other tailored trainings.
 - (b) Research on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Charter, strategies for smart sustainable cities, including on innovation for SDGs, elaboration of indicators and monitoring schemes.

- (c) Organization and hosting of international, national, and subnational meetings (symposiums, workshops, training program and seminars) to disseminate information about the Charter and UNECE role for Smart and Sustainable Cities.
- (d) Promotion of the Charter at the international, national, and subnational level meetings and through print and social media (i.e. preparation of the articles in journals, newspapers, interview on TV and radio, dissemination through relevant newsletters etc.).
- (f) Regular consultations and cooperation with international, national and local stakeholders working on related topics.
- (g) Fundraising and preparation of project proposals, implementation of projects supporting the activities mentioned above.
- (h) Development and implementation of pilot projects on smart sustainable cities and to support the implementation of the Charter.
- (i) Provision of the financial and in-kind support, when feasible, to the network of Centers of Excellence and UNECE Secretariat, which acts as the network coordinator.
- (j) Participation in regular surveys organized by the UNECE on the implementation of the Charter.
- (a) Facilitation of exchanges of urban-focused SDG-related knowledge among representatives of civil society, private sector and other academic institutions.
- (b) Pursuit of synergies with other SDG-related activities inside of UNIGE and other Swiss and foreign academic institutions.
- (c) Development and production of print and digital materials on smart and sustainable urban areas and infrastructures, including brochures, web-sites and through media.

4. UNECE will:

- (a) Facilitate the work of the Center of Excellence and exchange of information, knowledge and experience within the network as well as with relevant international and national organizations in the UNECE region, within existing resources.
- (b) Promote the goals and objectives of the Charter through the Centre of Excellence.
- (c) Cooperate on the topic of smart and sustainable cities according to the priorities established by the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management;
- (d) Coordinate the cooperation and exchange of experiences between the networks of Centers of excellence.

Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

- 5. The Parties recognize the importance of protecting and respecting intellectual property rights. This Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding does not grant the right to use materials belonging to or created by either Party.
- 6. The intellectual property rights for materials or products developed or provided by UNECE shall rest entirely with UNECE as this is in accordance with UN copyright rules and regulations.

Use of UNECE name and logo

7. Any use of the UNECE name and logo by the UNIGE shall be subject to explicit written consent by UNECE.

Limits to Agreement

8. This Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an agreement by either Party to provide support for any specific project or activity. Any sharing of information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies on the disclosure of information.
9. In no event shall this Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding operate to create financial or administrative or legal obligations on the part of either Party, nor does it prevent the Parties from pursuing the objectives set forth in this Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding on their own or with other third parties.

Disputes

10. The Parties commit themselves to settling by good faith negotiation any dispute or controversy arising out of the implementation and/or interpretation of this Addendum.

Privileges and Immunities

11. Nothing in this Addendum is intended to be a waiver, expressly or implied, of the privileges and immunities of UNECE, including its subsidiary organs.

Planning of the Activities

12. The Parties will present their plans for specific activities to implement this Addendum to the Memorandum at the annual sessions of the CUDHLM.

Key points of contact

13. The key points of contact for implementation of this Addendum are listed below. The Parties may, by written notice to the other Party, designate additional or different persons as points of contact.

Focal Point for UNECE:

Ms. Gulnara Roll
Head, Housing and Land Management Unit
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations

8-14 avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 5793
Email: Gulnara.Roll@un.org

Focal Point for UNIGE

Mr. Alexandre Babak Hedjazi
Academic Deputy International Affairs, University of Geneva / Director Global
Environmental Policy Program / Senior Lecturer, Institute for Environmental
Sciences
66 Blvd Carl Vogt, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland
Email: AlexandreBabak.Hedjazi@unige.ch

Timeframe and termination

14. This Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding will continue for three years from the date of the last signature with the possibility of further extension based on mutual written agreement of the Parties signed by their authorized representatives. Either Party may, at its sole discretion, terminate this Addendum at any time by providing written notice to the other Party with a minimum notice period of six (6) months.

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

15. The Parties recognize the importance of monitoring and evaluating the performance of collaborative activities undertaken pursuant to this Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Center of Excellence shall annually report on its activities to the CUDHLM. Between the sessions the Centre of Excellence should report on the current activities to the CUDHLM's Bureau.
16. The Parties also agree to meet as needed to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the collaborative activities undertaken pursuant to this Addendum, including the extent to which the Parties have achieved their institutional goals and to which the overall results achieved through collaborative actions were greater than the sum of the results each Party would have achieved on its own.

Special measures for the protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

17. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse violate universally recognized international legal norms and standards. Such conduct is prohibited by the United Nations Regulations and Rules. When entering into this Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding with UNECE, UNIGE agree that you accept these standards. Failure on your part to take preventive measures against sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, to investigate allegations thereof, or to take corrective action when sexual exploitation or sexual abuse has occurred are grounds for termination of any agreement with the UNECE.

Miscellaneous

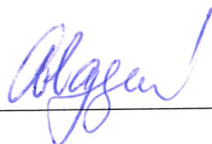
18. All other terms and conditions under the Original Memorandum of Understanding remain unchanged and in effect.

19. In witness whereof, the Parties hereto execute this Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding:

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Olga Algayerova,

Executive Secretary


 09.05.2021

Date:

For the University of Geneva,

Professor Yves Flueckiger,

Rector


04.06.2021

Date: