

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

The Greek Municipality of Lokron represented by the Mayor **Mr. Athanasios Zekentes** and the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in its dual capacity as the Hub of the United Nations Academic Initiative (UNAI) for the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7) and as the Coordinator of the Green Energy Network (GEN) of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) represented by its Director, **Prof. Dim. Mavrakis**

Take into account

- The appeal of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres towards governments and simple people of the world to increase their "ambition" to confront Climate Change,
- The response of KEPA, as the UNAI Hub for the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (UNAI HUB SDG7), to the aforementioned appeal by undertaking the global initiative to promote the planting of trees, as a contribution to the efforts for reforestation of the planet,
- The appeal of UNAI HUB SDG7 towards Academic Institutions, Governments, Local Governments, companies, all types of legal entities, individuals and especially towards young people to participate in the international tree planting initiative "75UN – 75 Trees UNAI SDG7",
- The need of concrete actions to be undertaken by local communities so as to protect the environment, preserve and increase the green environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to facilitate the green transformation of local economies,
- The need to raise awareness and adaptation of local communities so as to deal with the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, as a result of the evolving climate change,
- The need to combine these actions with the efforts for economic development of local communities and especially of economically vulnerable groups,
- The need to strengthen efforts for the global forest protection, especially in developing and under development economies, by setting up International Cooperative Initiatives (ICIs) for resource and knowledge transfer,
- The need to participate in international initiatives so as to achieve objectives linked with the promotion of actions and programs related to the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7), as this goal is defined by the UN and in particular those actions and programs related to the conservation and expansion of tree planting locally, nationally and internationally.

Agree

- The participation of the Municipality of Lokron at the International Tree Planting Initiative "75 UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7" and at the International Community (UNAI SDG7 - Community) of the Initiative,

- The symbolic planting and care of **one hundred seventy (170) trees** within an area of the Municipality in accordance with the terms set by UNAI HUB SDG7 and the posting of the relevant commemorative plaque which will be supplied by UNAI HUB SDG7,
- UNAI HUB SDG7 will supply free of charge one hundred seventy (170) trees of the Greek flora that have been agreed, and the commemorative plaque, on the date that will be mutually agreed,
- The Municipality undertakes
 - the demarcation and, if possible, the fencing and the sending of a topographic plan of the area with the locations of the trees to be planted, the excavation of the planting sites, the provision of their irrigation, the placement of the commemorative plaque and the announcement of the date of their planting,
 - the secure care of the trees for a period of five (5) years and the promotion of planting new trees, up to the extent of its capacity, during the next planting periods within municipal areas,
 - the encouragement of individuals to plant trees in private areas, in collaboration with UNAI HUB SDG7.
- The awareness of local communities can be significantly enhanced through the activation of youth groups (sports teams, scouts, etc.) that have the ability to act as catalysts in promoting the goals of SDG7.
- Activities, related to the creation of municipal or private forests, will be under the perspective of certification, with the purpose to issue and negotiate greenhouse gas capture certificates, and for this purpose the Municipality will consider cooperation with UNAI HUB SDG7 and other Municipalities within the frame of the existing Municipal Forest Cooperatives.
- Participation in the annual international activities of the initiative will allow not only the exchange of experience but also will contribute to the development of related "green" economic activities.
- The content of this Memorandum is not legally binding on the parties and the objectives will be achieved on the basis of specialized agreements.

The two parties agree on the signing of this Memorandum in English as well, its notification to the Permanent International Secretariat of BSEC (BSEC - PERMIS), the permanent committees and its member states, to the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Initiative, its contracted parties, the international dissemination of the relevant actions by KEPA and the Municipality and finally its posting on the respective websites of the Municipality, BSEC and UNAI.

Athens 3 March 2023

For the municipality of Lokron
The Mayor
Athanasios Zekentes

For KEPA – UNAI HUB SDG7
The Director
Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakis