

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

The Greek Municipality of Neas Ionias represented by the Mayor **Mr. Panagiotis Manouris** and the Energy Policy and Development Centre (KEPA) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in its capacity as the Hub of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) for the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7) represented by its Director, **Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakis (UNAI SDG7 Hub Co-Chair)**

Take into account

- The appeal of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres towards governments, local societies and simple people of the world to increase their "ambition" for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals up to 2030 (Att. 1),
- The response of KEPA, to the aforementioned appeal by undertaking series of initiatives among which the initiative to promote the planting and protection of trees in urban and peri-urban environment, the development and the protection of forest areas as a contribution to the efforts of CO₂ capture from trees (REDD+)¹.
- The appeal of the **UNAI SDG7 Hub Co-Chair** 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 for local societies to undertake specific actions for the protection of the environment, the preservation and increase of greenery, the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions and the green transformation of local economies.
- The policies of the municipality to strengthen the efforts for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of UN as included in the **"Agenda – 2030 for Sustainable Development"**.
- The policies of the municipality for substantial expansion of urban greenery, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and reinforcement of circular economy actions in the city.
- The need to raise awareness and adaptation of citizens to deal with the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.
- The need to combine these actions with the efforts for the economic development of local societies and particularly of economically vulnerable groups.
- The need to strengthen efforts to protect forests on a global scale and particularly in countries with developing and emerging economies, by establishing International Cooperative Initiatives (ICIs) for the transfer of resources and know-how.
- The need to participate in international initiatives related to the 7th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7).

Agree

- The participation of the **Municipality of Neas Ionias** at the International Tree Planting Initiative "75 UN - 75 Trees UNAI SDG7" and at the International Energy Community (UNAI SDG7 Hub – Energy Community) of the Initiative.

¹ "REDD" stands for "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries". "+" stands for additional forest-related activities that protect the climate, namely sustainable forest management and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Under these REDD+ activities, developing countries can receive results-based payments for emission reductions when they reduce deforestation.

- The free of charge offer from KEPA of 160 (one hundred sixty) trees of the Greek flora, along with trees, irrigation material and commemorative plaque, from the sponsorship of the Hellenic Green Fund on the date that will be mutually agreed.
- The municipality of Neas Ionias undertakes the planting and care of the trees at areas of the municipality according to the prerequisites set by KEPA (UNAI SDG7 Hub Co-Chair).
- More specifically, the Municipality of Neas Ionias undertakes
 - 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 planting, the fencing, the ensuring of their irrigation, the placement of the commemorative plaque, the announcement of the date of their planting and the promotion of the action at the mass media of the municipality (press releases before and after).
 - the registration and participation of the municipality at the annual Conference (Bourazani – Konitsa) for presentation and exchange of views about “problems, good practices and cooperation perspectives” in Greece and abroad.
 - the encouragement of individuals and local entities (citizens, volunteers etc) in tree planting.
 - the activation of youth groups (students, sport teams, scouts etc) in the planting and adoption of trees.
 - the sending of photos before and after planting from the planting site/areas, and if possible, videos during the planting.
 - the secure care of the trees for a period of five (5) years and the planting of new trees during the next planting periods.
- The exploration of cooperation perspectives on SDG7 issues, such as energy poverty, circular economy, electro-mobility and the introduction of hydrogen in the transport sector (vehicles, ferries etc).

The content of this Memorandum is not legally binding on the parties and the objectives will be achieved on the basis of good cooperation and specialized agreements.

The two parties agree on the signing of this Memorandum in English as well, its notification to the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Initiative, to the Permanent International Secretariat of BSEC (BSEC - PERMIS), its permanent committees and member states, 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.

16./5./2025

For the municipality of Neas Ionias
The Mayor
Mr. Panagiotis Manouris

For KEPA – UNAI SDG7 Hub Co-Chair
The Director
Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakis