

Memorandum of Understanding

Climate Bridges Network

I. REGULATIONS

Article 1 – Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter the “MoU”, is to affirm the establishment of a transnational network, the Climate Bridges Network, hereinafter referred to as the “Network”, for cooperation in joint climate mitigation efforts between Civil Society Organizations, research organizations, governmental bodies, social enterprises as well as any other association, and networks working on climate action and pursuing the same goals.

Article 2 – Objectives of the Climate Bridges Network

Description of the Network

The purpose of the Network is to strengthen cooperation for climate action: on the one hand, transnational cooperation between CSOs from countries in Southeastern Europe and, on the other, cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, especially between local, regional and national authorities and CSOs.

The Network acts as an umbrella organization for its members. It fosters knowledge exchange and cooperation between members with the intention of accelerating climate action and improving the implementation of international agreements such as the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB). For this purpose, the Network coordinates and supports transnational exchange and cooperation with a focus on topics such as: decarbonization, depollution, the circular economy, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and nature protection.


Goals

The goal of the Network is the greater exchange of knowledge, ideas, problems and solutions in the field of climate policy and climate action between the various stakeholders, as well as the creation of stronger bonds through joint campaigns, projects and activities.

The implementation of climate solutions is to be improved through deepened cooperation, regular exchanges and common practices.

Activities

The specific activities and focus areas of the Network will be selected by the Network members within the first 6 months following the Network’s launch. By mapping and prioritizing interests, the focus topics will be selected and, afterwards, activities supporting the focus topic will be developed and implemented.



The Network will actively undertake a diverse range of activities aimed at advancing its objectives. These activities include, but are not restricted to:

- Online meetings to facilitate active information sharing and knowledge exchange among members
- Joint campaigns, projects, events, and activities depending on the priorities selected
- One annual assembly (live or online)

Benefits for members

Membership of the Network offers numerous advantages, such as:

- empowering participants to achieve their objectives effectively
- profiting from the knowledge and networks of other members
- finding partners for common projects and activities
- making use of the communal website for knowledge sharing, event notification and direct communication with other members
- networking and connecting with different stakeholders.

Article 3 – Membership

Becoming a member

CSOs, national, regional and local authorities, as well as public and private institutions active in the fields of the GAWB from Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, and other EU countries, may all become members by signing the Network's MoU.

Membership can be requested by sending an email to the general email address network@climate-bridges.com. The Coordination Unit will decide on each membership request.

Duties and responsibilities

Membership of the Network is open to eligible entities without the imposition of any financial charges or fees.


Prospective members are required to express their acceptance and adherence to the terms and conditions set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the Network's operations. The MoU shall serve as the formal agreement governing the relationship between the Network and its members.

Upon signing the MoU, each member undertakes to actively support and contribute to the activities and objectives of the Network. This commitment entails the promotion of collaborative efforts and joint initiatives aimed at advancing the Network's mission.

It is hereby clarified that no specific or binding obligations are imposed upon members with regard to their contributions. Each member is granted the liberty to determine the nature and extent of their contributions, ensuring adaptability to individual circumstances and capabilities.

Withdrawal and exclusion

Membership may be ended at any time by sending an email to the general email address network@climate-bridges.com and requesting withdrawal from the Network. The Coordination Unit will delete the member and delete all data.



Members may be excluded if the Network is notified of any illegal activity on the part of a member, or if the Network becomes aware that a member's behaviour contravenes the Network's goals and values.

Article 4 – Coordination of the Network

Coordination Unit

For the first two years after the Network's launch, the Coordination Unit will consist of the EUKI Climate Bridges Project partners (CENER 21, Zelena Istra, URI and CIPRA Lab). The coordination of the Network will rotate between these organizations every 6 months. The coordinator always has a vice-coordinator from another organization who will become the coordinator in the next semester.

The tasks of the Coordination Unit are the preparation and conducting of regular online meetings with members, communication with members, maintenance of the website, organization of an annual assembly, and steering the implementation of the selected priorities.

In addition, the Coordination Unit will prepare and discuss a proposal for the decision-making processes in the Network.

The Coordination Unit shall be supported in its different activities by the members.

Annual assembly

The annual assembly shall take place once a year. Its purpose is to strengthen the bonds between members, decide on the priorities for the coming year, present the activities of the past year, and receive expert inputs on topics of interest.

Article 5 – Liability

Members shall have no liability towards each other in the execution of this MoU.

Article 6 – Resolution of disputes

Any dispute between members related to the execution of this MoU shall be brought to the attention of the Coordination Unit for settlement.

Article 7 – Duration of this MoU and its extension

This MoU shall come into being once a minimum of 40 members have signed it and shall remain in force until the Coordination Unit decides to change it or terminate the Climate Bridges Network.

This MoU may be extended or terminated at any time by mutual agreement of the Coordination Unit.

Article 7 – Amendments/Annexes

This MoU may be amended at any time with the agreement of the members by means of a two-thirds majority vote.

All Annexes to this MoU form an integral part thereof.



SIGNATURES

The members declare that they agree to this Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a network for collaboration on climate change in Southeastern Europe and have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be duly signed by the undersigned authorized representatives.

Authorized to sign on behalf of

Name or Organization:

Email address:

Name and Function/Title:

Date:

Signature: