



Erasmus+



Consortium Agreement among the Parties of the Erasmus+ EMJMD EMCL++ Programme

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This **Consortium Agreement** represents the joint procedure for the provision of a 120 ECTS Joint Degree Programme, titled the Erasmus+ Joint European Master Degree "European Master's in Clinical Linguistics++" (hereinafter referred to as the "**Degree Programme**").

This Agreement has been developed by the Parties in accordance with the legislation of their respective jurisdictions and establishes joint procedures and criteria for organising the aforementioned Degree Programme and the awarding of a joint degree upon successful completion.

The Consortium Agreement is formally established on 07 OKT 2021 // October / 2021 and is intended to be in full accordance with the multi-beneficiary grant agreement signed with the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "**Grant Agreement**") within the framework of the Erasmus+ Degree Programme of the European Commission fund for Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programmes. All parties to this Agreement are subject to the rules and regulations put in place by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "EACEA") regarding both their responsibilities towards the EACEA and towards the other parties to this Agreement.

The undersigned parties agree to the following regulations:

§ 1 Composition of the Consortium, authorisation of executive functions

The Consortium consists of the following three full partners:

1. The University of Groningen (Netherlands), acting as coordinator of the Erasmus+ Joint European Master Degree "European Master's in Clinical Linguistics++" (EMCL++), hereinafter referred to as "**Coordinating Institution**", legally represented by its President, Prof. Dr. Jouke de Vries, official denomination and address Broerstraat 5, 9712 CP, Groningen, The Netherlands
AND
2. Ghent University (Belgium), hereinafter referred to as UGENT, legally represented by its Rector, Prof. Rik Van de Walle, PhD, official denomination and address St. Pietersnieuwstraat 25, 9000 Gent, Belgium
AND
3. The University of Eastern Finland (Finland), hereinafter referred to as UEF legally represented by the Dean of its Philosophical Faculty, Prof. Janne Pietarinen, PhD, official denomination and address PO Box 111, Yliopistokatu 2, 80101 Joensuu, Finland

hereinafter referred to as "**full partners**".

EMCL++ has the following associated partners:

Academic sector:

Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (ES)
Carnegie Mellon University (USA)
Donders Institute, Radboud University (NL)
Harbin Institute of Technology (PRC)
Higher School of Economics (RU)
Macquarie University (Sydney, AU)
Max Planck Institute (D)
Technical University Tallinn (EE)
The New York Graduate Center (CUNY, USA)
University of Barcelona (ES)
University of Copenhagen (DEN)
University of Oslo (N)

R&D sector

Aloida, Houston (USA)
ANT, Hengelo (NL)
Eemagine, Berlin (DE)
Graphogame, Helsinki (FI)
Tobii pro (SE)

Clinical sector

Center for speech pathology and rehabilitation (RU)
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin (DE)
Dept. Neurosurgery, Hospital Lariboisière (FR)

Koninklijke Kentalis (NL)
 Kings College London Hospital (UK)
 Klinikum Rechts der Isar der Tech Univ, München (DE)
 NI Pirogov National Medical and surgical center (RU)
 University Medical Center Montpellier Montpellier (FR)
 University Medical Center Groningen (NL)

hereinafter referred to as “**associated partners**”.

Definitions

Consortium refers to University of Groningen, Ghent University, and University of Eastern Finland;

Coordinating University refers to the University of Groningen. With regard to the Erasmus Mundus recognition and mobility grant funding, and as required by the European Commission, University of Groningen shall be referred to as the ‘coordinating’ university or institution;

Credit points refers to ECTS credits

Degree Programme refers to the 120-ECTS EMCL++ programme (leading to a European Master's in Clinical Linguistics++);

Examination mark refers to the score for an individual course, expressed in the grading (and grade conversion) system used on behalf of the Degree Programme

Final Grade refers to the overall grade (A, B, C, D or E) awarded by the Examination Board to a student upon successful completion of the Degree Programme

Full Partners refers to The University of Groningen (Netherlands), Ghent University (Belgium) and the University of Eastern Finland (Finland);

Joint Fee refers to the fee to be paid by each student for participation in the Degree Programme per academic year

Local Coordinator refers to each coordinator of the Degree Program on the local level, i.e. at each of the full partners; for RUG the Local Coordinator corresponds with the Programme Coordinator

Local Tuition Fee refers to the tuition fee in effect at the respective partner universities for parts of the Degree Programme taken by the students at their university

Module(s) refers to a coherent package of courses;

Programme Coordinator refers to the overall coordinator of the Degree Programme at the coordinating university

Programme Countries include the 27 Member states of the European Union, as well as the Republic of North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, and Serbia as defined within the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Community;

Partner Countries include all countries not mentioned under Programme countries, as defined within the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Community.

The Full Partners jointly manage and administer the Degree Programme. For this goal, the Parties accept that:

(a) The University of Groningen, being the coordinating university, is responsible for:

- signing contracts on behalf of the consortium as defined in this agreement;
- signing agreements with the students for the consortium, including student agreements, scholarship agreements, internship agreements and master thesis supervision agreements;
- providing access for the UGent local coordinator to the platform where all application files can be consulted in view of the organisation of the selection and admission procedure;
- issuing the Letter of Admission to all students who have been admitted to the Degree Programme according to the procedure mentioned in article 3;
- registering all EMCL++ students throughout their study career and registering their complete curriculum and study results (whereby the study results obtained at the other partner institutions are converted to the grading system used by RUG, as stipulated in article 6).
- drafting and signing associated partnership agreements in the name of the consortium with the associated partners, subject to approval by all local coordinators in a meeting of the Board of Directors;
- developing, hosting and maintaining the EMCL++ website;
- managing the correspondence and administrative issues with the EACEA Agency in Brussels
- issuing the joint degrees (diploma and diploma supplements) as well as the joint grade record, as defined in article 10.
- archiving the student files, the curricula, study results and joint diplomas for all EMCL++ students, as well as for providing graduates with duplicates and proof of graduation upon request.
- assuming full financial management via the EMCL++ account on behalf of the consortium, i.e. all matters pertaining to the scholarship and partnership accounts under key action 1 of Erasmus+ as well as the entire

financial administration of the Degree Programme in agreement with decisions made by the Board of Directors, in particular:

- the financial management of the individual grants. Upon arrival, all students sign a scholarship contract with the Coordinating University. The student should open a SEPA bank account. The scholarship will be transferred to this account on a monthly basis as specified in the scholarship contract. In accordance with national legal obligations, the individual grants will be paid at the end of each month. The travel allowance will be split and paid in two instalments, one at the beginning of the Degree Programme and after 12 months.
- collecting the joint fees and transferring from the EMCL++ consortium account to all full partners the amounts agreed upon in this agreement as well as in the annual budget approved by the Board of Directors for covering the local tuition fees and other costs related to their respective shares in the organization of the Degree Programme (such as the costs that the Coordinating University, UGENT, UEF make for compensation of participants on experiments, neuroimaging etc.), a projection of which is added as annex VI;
- management of the flat rate which is transferred yearly by the EACEA Team in Brussels to the consortium for covering administrative and consortium expenses including the payment of the guest lecturers;
- payment, from the EMCL++ consortium account, of the guest lecturers;
- establishment and payment of the insurance for all students enrolled in the Degree Programme. These students will be covered free of charge by an insurance scheme, valid worldwide, including 100% cover:
 - of doctor's fees, medicines, examinations, analyses prescribed by a physician, urgent dental care following an accident, all hospital expenses and surgical fees, repatriation in the event of serious illness or accident.
 - in case of accidental death, in all cases, including suicide: transport of the mortal remains to the place chosen by the deceased's family, funeral and laying out costs, costs of the coffin.
 - in case of permanent invalidity: around the clock cover against partial or full disability of a permanent nature resulting from an accident.
 - of third-party liability: around the clock cover against financial consequences of third party liability, which extends to the eligible candidates' host institutions.
 - of theft and loss of identification documents and travel tickets.
 - for supplementary assistance services (repatriation, early return in case of the death of a relative, dispatching of medicine abroad, search and rescue costs, telecommunication costs, emergency travel assistance, legal assistance, transportation and accommodation costs for family members in emergency situations).

(b) Ghent University is responsible for:

- managing the selection meeting of students;
- organizing the selection of guest lecturers;
- organizing the Winter and Summer meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Studies.

(c) The University of Eastern Finland is responsible for:

- developing promotional materials and mechanisms for EMCL++;

All three full partners undertake to provide in their universities:

- all provisions necessary to accommodate the needs of the international students in the EMCL++ programme, including assistance with visa and bank accounts, and the provision of a confidential advisor for the students;
- free of charge, assistance to the students and guest lecturers in finding accommodation;
- free access for students and guest lecturers to the libraries and to put at their disposal any required laboratory infrastructure and equipment during sufficient usage time to students and guest lecturers;
- possibilities for the EMCL++ students and guest lecturers to network with local students/researchers

Each full partner will notify the Coordinating University immediately if there is a change of their legal representative.

The consortium has a Board of Directors, a Selection Board, an Examination Board, and a Board of Studies.

The full partners commit themselves to support the operation of the below mentioned Board of Directors, the Selection Board, the Examination Board, and the Board of Studies in all its aspects, provided that their local rules of law are respected and that certain matters for which this is explicitly stipulated in this agreement as well as all matters which go beyond this agreement, will be submitted for approval to their governing bodies, and they will encourage Board Meetings at least twice per year.

The management structure of EMCL++ and the responsibility of these boards is given in the following table.

The management structure of EMCL++

	Programme Coordinator	Board of directors	Selection board	Examination board	Board of studies
Members	•	• Local Coordinators of the Universities of Groningen, Ghent and Eastern Finland	• 3 local coordinators (chair: UGENT) • 1 representative from associated partners • 1 external peer	• 1 teacher per partner Institution	• 3 Local coordinators (chair: Programmeme coordinator, RUG) • 2 students (one from each running cohort) • 1 alumnus • 1 representative from associated partners (1 in total)
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take all actions necessary for the proper functioning of the Consortium and for the fulfilment of the contractual agreement with any external funding parties as listed sub (a) • Timely organization of all board meetings • Undertake all actions required for financial management cf. (a) • Issuing letters of admission a.o. tasks mentioned sub a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and coordinate the programmeDegree Programme • Take all decisions as to the financial management of the Degree Programme, on the basis of financial overviews submitted to the Board by the Programme Coordinator at regular intervals and upon request of the Board of Directors • Supervise implementation of the eDegree Programme at the 3 universities, respecting the EMJMD rules • Supervise implementation of internships at the associated partners • Write intermediate and final technical reports, financial reports • Maintain and update of the curriculum to answer current needs and implement quality assessment results and recommendations of the Boards • Maintain website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student selection and proposal for admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance all assessments by the local Examination Board (essays, exams and theses) • Approve of internship placements • Check whether the consortium and local rules and regulations are obeyed • Control standards of supervision and signing of supervision agreements • Decide on measures to be undertaken in case of plagiarism suspicion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assurance • Coordination and management of the content and the quality of the programme • Advising board of Directors on further development of the Degree Programme on the basis of quality assurance

§ 2 Commitment to the aims, added value and joint nature of the Degree Programme, Structure and Contents of the Degree Programme and Joint Masters Degree

- (1) The full partners subscribe to the aims of the Degree Programme. The general purpose of the Degree Programme is to offer candidates a full-time interdisciplinary and transnational university Degree Programme at Masters level, providing integrated training in experimental linguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, and clinical linguistics. The aim of the Degree Programme is to train highly qualified and advanced students who, after completion of the Degree Programme, will be widely employable. With this Degree Programme, students are

excellently prepared for research work and PhD programmes in the above fields. They will also be widely employable in the R&D and clinical sector, thanks to the inclusion of representatives from these sectors as associated Partners in the Degree Programme.

- (2) The full partners also acknowledge the added value of the Degree Programme and support its goal to make a genuine contribution to European university excellence and competitiveness by providing a solid theoretical basis, nurturing the students' high motivation, satisfying their strong desire to acquire specialised knowledge, skills and competencies, and training them in flexibility by mobility. They recognize that the associated partners from the academic, R&D and clinical sector contribute significantly to this added value.
- (3) They agree on the contents of the Degree Programme laid down in annex V, which fits within an integrated structure of 6 modules, supported by an introductory set of start-up classes as well as by research extras which will be offered by all full partners throughout the Degree Programme. These modules are: (1) Language and Culture; (2) Methods; (3) Clinical Linguistics and Neurolinguistics; (4) Neurotechnology and IT; (5) Internship; (6) Master Thesis. The Research Extras can include colloquia, reading circles, and scientific excursions offered at each full partner, and the attendance of the international conference Science of Aphasia (SoA) or a comparable conference. These programme contents can be adjusted yearly, after approval by the Management Board and by the governing bodies of the institutions organising the master programme. In order to allow for a timely adoption of these programme modifications by the different university boards, these proposals will be discussed within the MB before November 1 preceding the start of the academic year in which they will come into effect. The full partners agree that after the successful completion of the Degree Programme, the graduates will receive a joint Master degree, a joint Grade Record and a joint Diploma Supplement issued on behalf of the full partners by the Coordinating University in accordance with the provisions in article 10.

§3 Joint admission requirements, applications and selection

The full partners require applicants to have a Bachelor degree at university level (of at least 180 ECTS) or a comparable degree in speech and language therapy, linguistics, psychology, special education, or (bio)medical sciences. Information about the Degree Programme and application procedures can be retrieved in the English language from the website www.emcl.eu. Application forms have to be completed in the English language and submitted digitally by December 15 (prior to the year the student wants to start the Degree Programme) to the Admissions office of the Coordinating University with previous registration in Studielink (the official institution to arrange [re-]enrolment at higher education institutions in The Netherlands). Applications should contain a personal and academic curriculum vitae, a questionnaire on language competencies, a description of the motivation for choosing to study the programme, a copy of the certificates and of the academic records, two reference letters written by academics, a proof of sufficient English language knowledge by relevant test results (TOEFL at least 600 paper-based, 250 computer-based, 100 internet-based or IELTS of at least 7 or equivalent), and a copy of identification papers or travel passport.

The Selection Board decides upon the admission of the applicants in January/February and ranks successful applicants (in case of a lack of good candidates a second deadline, of February 15, will be announced on the website) into lists for Programme country and Partner country students. These lists are registered in the EAECA Mobility tool prior to the deadline of April 15th. After examination by the EU-agency, applicants are notified that they are admitted with or without a scholarship. The admission to the Degree Programme requires that students agree to study at each of the three full partners ("mobility plan").

Students who have been granted admission will receive a Letter of Admission (LoA), signed by the Director of the EMCL at the Coordinating University, in the name of the consortium.

This LoA sets the rules of how to register/immatriculate for the Degree Programme at each full partner and mentions the joint fee and the way of paying. It refers to the entire Degree Programme. A copy of this letter will be sent to all full partners. The students are asked to present themselves for registration with this admission letter and a proof of payment of the joint fee. Registration is only official after payment of the joint fee on the consortium account. This payment must be done before the end of August, prior to the academic year the student will attend. Erasmus Mundus scholarship holders should not pay the joint fee on the consortium account. For these students, the contribution of the scholarship to the EMCL++ joint fees is used to cover the joint fee.

The students are registered/immatriculated in Groningen and Eastern Finland for the full period of four terms and at Ghent University in the first master's year or, if they take the master thesis at Ghent University, in both the first and the second master's year. By 15 November of the first semester at the latest, the coordinating university shall forward the list of admitted students, including an e-mail address for each student, to the Ghent University International

Admissions Team; Ghent University shall then send each student a link with the request to register, after which the enrolment shall be completed.

§4 Joint fees

(1) The consortium charges a joint fee of € 9,000 per year to partner country students and of € 4,500 per year to programme country students for participation in the programme. Payment mode, i.e. the number and amount of instalments is specified in a student agreement with the Coordinating University. Additionally, scholarship agreements are made between the Coordinating University and the students who receive an EMJMD scholarship.

For students who do not succeed in completing the Degree Programme within the foreseen 2 academic years, the same joint fees are in force, but they can obtain a waiver which will be calculated in proportion to the number of credit points still to be taken.

(2) The Coordinating University pays a flat rate to both Ghent University and the University of Eastern Finland at the beginning of the first term of each cohort, as mentioned in the Financial Appendix.

(3) The full partners agree to authorize the Selection Board and the Board of Directors to examine applications for fee reductions or waivers for students with disadvantaged backgrounds and to grant these in well-motivated cases.

§5 Study Volume, Standard duration, Academic Year Planning, Mobility Plan, Grading and Certifying Courses

(1) Study volume: the Degree Programme encompasses 120 credit points (ECTS), corresponding to 30 credit points in each term of classes, which include preparation for internship and thesis- (1st, 2nd and 3rd terms), and 30 ECTS in the final term, in which is reserved for the master thesis. For successful completion of the Degree Programme, the full programme (120 ECTS credit points) needs to be successfully completed.

(2) Standard duration: the regular study period (the time after which the students normally obtain their final degree) of the Degree programme is 24 months.

(3) Academic Year Planning: the Degree Programme starts on September 1st with the Start-up classes. Term 1 starts on September 1st and lasts until the first week of February (with a 2-3 week Christmas break). The second term starts on February 15th and lasts until the end of July, both terms including the respective examination periods. In August the students have a 4 week break. On September 1st, the third term starts, with a break for the attendance of the Science of Aphasia Conference, till the end of December. **The last 7–8 weeks of the third term the Internship is scheduled until the end of February.** In the final and fourth term, starting on March 1st, the students will write their Master thesis or combine their master thesis with their internship. In the case of a combination, the students start in the beginning of the year till the 31st of August of that year at the university where the first master thesis supervisor is employed.

(4) Mobility plan:

	Mobility plan for EMCL++ students				
	Start-up	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4*
RUG	X	X			X
UGENT			X		X
UEF				X	X
Associated partners					X

*Students do their internships at one of the partner universities or at one of the associated partners, in term 3 or combine writing their thesis with their internship. Then this will take place in both term 3 and 4. Some of them may then come back to the UGroningen, UGENT, or UEF to write their thesis. All of them write their thesis with a supervisor from UGroningen, UGENT, or UEF and a second supervisor from one of the full partners or of the associated partners.

(5) Grading and Certifying Courses: Grade records of all study and test achievements of a student at his/her university of residence are sent to the Coordinating University at the end of the second, third and fourth term. All courses of the programme Degree Programme are graded with examination marks and converted to the RUG grading system in accordance with §6. The number of credit points awarded for a course is certified if the student has obtained at least the grade "E = sufficient".

(6) Resits: for each course, at least one resit is allowed per academic year

§6 Grading system

- (1) The Joint Grade Record lists the test achievements for modules 2–7. They are graded according to the following system:
 A = excellent
 B = very good
 C = good
 D = satisfactory
 E = sufficient
- (2) A failed examination (less than E) has to be repeated before the beginning of the next term if a student does not pass the course even within the resit possibilities of the semester in question, he/she will be given the opportunity to retake it in a following semester/academic year (depending on the resit rules of the university concerned) under the supervision of academic staff from the university where he/she is then located for the programme. If this proves impossible, the student will be given the opportunity to take the examination in situ at the partner institution concerned.
- (3) The conversion of the local grading scales for study and test achievements into the EMCL++ letter grading system is done according to the following table:

		EMCL++ grading system		
	Verbal	RUG	UGENT	UEF
A	Excellent	9, 10	18–20	5
B	Very good	8	16, 17	4
C	Good	7	14, 15	3
D	Satisfactory	6	12, 13	2
E	Sufficient	5.5	10, 11	1
F	Fail	5-0	0–10	0

§7 Internship

All EMCL++ students are obliged to do a 10 ECTS internship at one of the full or associated Partners. All information about the internship, including the learning outcomes, formal requirements, procedure, planning, supervision, assessment and assessment criteria and rights and obligations are established in the Internship rules and regulations, see annex III.

§8 Master Thesis Programme

- (1) The Master Thesis should demonstrate that the student is able to competently and scientifically deal, within a fixed period of time, with an experimental linguistic, neurolinguistic, psycholinguistic, or clinical linguistic problem which is clearly formulated.
- (2) The learning outcomes, formal requirements, procedure, planning schedule, assessment procedure and assessment criteria, as well as rules on archiving and all rights and obligations regarding the Master Thesis are described in the Master Thesis Rules and Regulations, laid down in annex IV.
- (3) The Examination Board decides on the admission to the Master Thesis. The Examination Board specifies the topic and the expected duration (maximally six months) for the Master Thesis.
- (4) In well-founded cases, the topic and accompanying research proposal of the project for the Master Thesis can be changed. Such a change, which is authorized by the Examination Board, can be allowed only once and moreover only within the first 2 months of the operating time. Upon motivated request from the student (e.g., incapacitation), the Examination Board can, in such case, extend the time period for a maximum of three months. This motivated request needs to be done no later than 1st of July unless a medical doctor attests medical issues later in time.

§9 Degree Programme completion, decision on the awarding of the degree and of the final grade

- (1) To all students who have, upon decision of the Examination Board, successfully completed the Degree Programme (which means that the total amount of 120 ECTS credit points corresponding to the Degree Programme have been obtained), the degree of 'European Master in Clinical Linguistics' will be jointly awarded by the full partners.

- (2) The Examination Board will also decide on the overall classification (overall weighted mean grade) of each student who passed the Degree Programme, which is expressed according to the following system:

A = excellent
B = very good
C = good
D = satisfactory
E = sufficient

§10 Certification and documents

- (1) The joint awarding of the degree and the final grade will be certified by a joint diploma and accompanying diploma supplement following the model developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES, which will be issued by the Coordinating University. It will state that the full partners of the consortium jointly award the student the academic degrees of Master of Arts in Clinical Linguistics (University of Groningen) and European Master of Science in Clinical Linguistics (University of Ghent and University of Eastern Finland) upon successful completion of the jointly organized master's programme and it will also mention the overall classification of the grades awarded to the student by the joint Examination Board, which will decide whether all conditions are fulfilled in order to obtain the degree.
- (2) The diploma will carry the logos and mention the names of all full partners jointly awarding the diploma, and will be signed by the chair of the Board of Directors and the chair of the Examination Board on behalf of all three universities. The volume of the programme (120 ECTS credits) will also be mentioned on the diploma. The diploma supplement will also be signed by the chair of the Board of Directors and the chair of the Examination Board, and will carry the seal of the issuing university (University of Groningen). The coordinating university will present the model of the joint diploma and its supplement to both partner universities, in order to verify which text necessarily needs to be added in order to avoid infringements on their respective national educational legislations.
- (3) The coordinating university will also issue a joint grade record signed by the chair of the Board of Directors and the chair of the Examination Board and carrying the seal of the issuing university (University of Groningen).

§11 Quality assurance

Quality assurance is done both internally and externally in compliance with national law.

Internal evaluation

(1) Student feedback:

- Local feedback: teacher/course evaluation (including the quality and value of the lectures taught by the guest lecturers and associated partners) at the full partners using their established system tailored for the integrated nature of the Degree Programme;
- Common feedback (evaluation of the full partners) collected centrally by the consortium using standardized questionnaires; including locally organized services like housing and help with visa, etc.;
- Feedback on internship offered by the associated partners on the quality of supervision, the internship and the thesis supervision.

- (2) Alumni feedback for employability evaluation and further suggestions for the Degree Programme; this is done via the website and at the Science of Aphasia conference.

(3) Feedback of the associated partners:

- on the quality of the students concerning the courses in which they participated;
- on the quality and the background of the students with regard to the requirements for their internship;
- on the process of supervision of the internships and the theses.

(4) Guest lecturers' feedback

The guest lecturers are invited to give feedback:

- on the application procedure and support of the hosting institute for visa, housing, contract preparation etc.;
- on the quality of the students of the courses they taught;
- on the quality of the facilities at the hosting institute;
- on issues of the Degree Programme as a whole.

(5) Applicants' feedback

A small number of accepted (5) and not-accepted (5) applicants will be randomly selected each year and they will

be asked to give feedback on:

- the information for applicants on the website;
- the application procedures;
- the transparency of the selection procedures;
- the information provided on the outcome of the selection procedures;
- (for those selected) the information provided after the selection procedures.

(6) Self-evaluation of participating full partners

Internal evaluation

For the internal evaluation of teaching, learning and other programme related activities, procedures which are already in place at the full partner institutions are followed. Existing questionnaires will be updated and digitalized. Questionnaires for the associated partners and applicants are new in the Degree Programme and will be developed during the preparatory year.

External evaluation

Systematic external evaluation is provided through permanent peer feedback of one or two colleagues outside the network. They monitor all activities from application procedures, student selection to Degree Programme development, and bring problems to the attention of the Board of Studies. These colleagues will annually speak with the students in a separate meeting. In addition, the Degree Programme is also the subject to continuous quality control according to the full partners' established quality assurance policies, and through evaluation of national / regional bodies. The feedback that is collected by internal and external evaluation is discussed by the Board of Studies. This body meets twice a year. They report to the Board of Directors and give advice on how the Degree Programme can be improved on the basis of the feedback. The Board of Directors implements the changes accordingly, when feasible and legally possible. This involves not only changes to the Degree Programme, but also improvement of the local facilities and organization.

§12 Socio-cultural assistance of the students

For smooth daily operation and student assistance, there will be the following services:

- A Programme management run by a Local Coordinator with his/her assistants. They act as a central contact point for the student.
- Obligatory language and culture classes at full partners should provide the students with sufficient communicative skills to learn to master everyday problems.
- Students will be taken on a guided tour of the city at the beginning of each new residence period.
- Each full partner will be in charge of visa issues, accommodation of students and scholars, and other types of assistance and do so free of charge.
- Additional services are provided at each full partner institution or disadvantaged students or scholars or those with special needs.
- Each full partner will open up low cost sports facilities to ease interaction with other students/scholars.
- Email lists will be created at the beginning of the Degree Programme for networking purposes and news announcements from the Board of Directors and the local coordinators.

§13 Human, financial and other types of support provided by the full partners

The teachers and local directors appointed are all high-level academics with international teaching and research experience. Extra money is provided by the full partners to hire assistants for Local Coordinators in support of local implementation of the Degree Programme. In order for the Degree Programme to be self-supportive, each full partner allows its administration and infrastructure to be used without expenses. At the coordinating University, the financial officer is allowed to dedicate a large portion of his time to the financial management of the consortium scholarships.

§14 Course promotion measures and awareness raising activities

The Coordinating University is responsible for the promotion. A webpage is maintained that contains all relevant information about the Degree programme, the Universities, the associated partners, the courses offered, possible thesis topics, the internship projects and the application procedure, including a downloadable application form, and a link to the alumni site. Furthermore, the promotion will be made through:

- Maintaining Social Media
- International news sites, mailing lists and platforms of relevant professional bodies (e.g., Science of Aphasia, the Academy of Aphasia, LinguistList, CUNYList);

- Flyers that will be spread on the international conferences that the directors and teachers of the EMCL++ attend;
- Portals of the universities and national agencies where students look for grants.

§15 Open Access Policy

All master theses are published online (if both the supervisors and the student agree; sometimes the thesis will contain information that cannot be made public, for example in case of special diseases or when a patent is involved and/or when privacy laws apply) through the EMCL++ website and through the library of the University of Groningen. EMCL++ students and graduates are encouraged to publish in open access journals, proceedings etc. Data collected for master theses' projects will be made sustainably available according to the national laws. A MOOC developed by the consortium is freely accessible via *future learn*.

§16 Logos

The logo of EMCL++ and Erasmus+ will be used on all materials that refer to EMCL++, including the announcement and description of the Degree Programme on the universities' website.

For the duration of this Consortium Agreement and only for carrying out the obligations as mentioned in this Consortium Agreement the Universities are entitled to print the logos of the participating universities on the EMCL++ diplomas to be awarded.

§17 Guest lecturers

The EMCL++ consortium aims at recruiting 4–6 guest lecturers per cohort. Promotion activities to recruit guest lecturers are part of the activities mentioned in §14. Guest lecturers are invited or can apply for a minimum duration of one week and a grant of €1,950/week. They apply through the EMCL++ website, application materials are provided and managed by Ghent University. Selection of candidates is done during a regular consortium meeting or via online meetings, if needed. The Coordinating University manages financial aspects.

§18 Interaction with non-educational actors

The full partners actively interact with the associated partners that come from (a) related academic fields in Programme countries (n=8) and Partner countries (n=4); (b) the R&D (neurotechnological) sector (n=5) and (c) the clinical sector (n=9). These are all potential employers, they will be involved in teaching and provide internships for EMCL++-students and agreed to co-supervise their thesis projects when they are involved. These Associate Partners will participate in the *Meet the Employer Event* in the second term. They will either come to Ghent University or are available through an internet connection and present a virtual lab visit. Excursions will be organized to the companies and rehabilitation centres in the vicinity of Ghent, Groningen, and Joensuu. The associated partners will be available at least half a day each to present themselves and to discuss possible research projects with the students.

§ 19. Ownership of Intellectual Property

The ownership of the Intellectual Property shall rest with the University in whose activities the Intellectual Property was created, invented or generated.

The ownership of jointly generated Intellectual Property shall rest with the Universities generating the Intellectual Property jointly, in the proportion of their contribution to creating such Intellectual Property. The joint owning Universities shall agree separately on detailed conditions for the exploitation of their jointly owned Intellectual Property. Should the joint owners fail to reach an agreement as regards their jointly owned Intellectual Property, each joint owner shall be entitled to use the jointly owned Intellectual Property independently as it sees fit.

The establishment of Intellectual Property Rights relating to course contents will remain with the University responsible for delivery of that course. Where existing copyright material is used, this must be acknowledged. Delivering Universities shall be responsible for obtaining the necessary third party authorization. In case a student generates Intellectual Property, ownership of the Intellectual Property shall be subject to the rules of the University where the student was registered at the time the Intellectual Property was created.

The Universities not owning the Intellectual Property shall have a royalty-free User Right for Research Purposes to Intellectual property generated by the other Universities, excluding patentable inventions and software. User Right for Research Purposes refers to a non-exclusive right to use the Intellectual Property in internal research and development purposes of the University as well as in teaching or for scientific research purposes. User Right for Research Purposes does not include a right to sub-license the Intellectual Property or otherwise assign the Intellectual Property or a part

thereof to third parties, nor a right to sell services conducted by using the Intellectual Property or a right to otherwise commercially exploit the Intellectual Property.

§ 19.1 Ownership of Background

Background means all information owned by a University or otherwise in its possession, generated outside the Degree Programme, including but not limited to knowhow, ideas, patents, inventions, methods, solutions, devices, substances and software, technical reports and documents in which the information is described, regardless of the form or medium in which it is disclosed or stored and irrespective of whether it is or can be protected by intellectual property rights.

The necessity of the Background for the Degree Programme, submitting the Background and the conditions thereof shall be in the sole discretion of the University owning the Background or having the Background otherwise in its possession. The Parties are not obliged to submit any Background to be used by the other Universities in the Degree Programme, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

The Universities are allowed to use the Background submitted by the other Universities for the purpose of carrying out the tasks defined in this Agreement. The University receiving the submitting University's Background shall not be entitled to assign the Background further to a third party. If the Background is needed in order to exploit the Intellectual Property of the Degree Programme in further research and development or in business activities, the conditions of such use shall be agreed separately in writing between the Universities in question.

The University shall return the Background received from the other University only, if so separately agreed in writing between the Universities.

§ 20 Confidentiality

The Universities shall each individually confirm that strict confidentiality will be observed in all communications relating to portable or potentially commercially valuable intellectual property created within the Degree Programme.

Confidential Information means either oral or written information concerning technical, financial, commercial or other matters which is clearly marked as confidential prior to its disclosure or otherwise obviously of confidential nature due to the nature of the information or the circumstances, in which it was disclosed.

The Universities undertake not to disclose the other University's Confidential Information disclosed to the receiving University by the disclosing University or which is otherwise in the receiving University's possession, to third parties, and to obey due diligence in order to safeguard the confidentiality of the said information.

The Universities are not entitled to use Confidential Information for other purposes than for fulfilling their obligations according to this Agreement.

The confidentiality obligations shall not apply to information, which the receiving University is able to demonstrate to be:

- (a) public or which later becomes part of the public domain through no fault or negligence of the receiving University or its personnel, or through no breach on this Agreement or applicable legislation;
- (b) already in the receiving University's possession at the time of disclosure through no fault or negligence of the receiving University;
- (c) received from a third party without any confidentiality obligations;
- (d) independently developed by the receiving University without using any Confidential Information of the disclosing University; or
- (e) required to be disclosed by law, decree, governmental order or similar.

The Universities shall apply the confidentiality obligations set out herein during the term of this Agreement and five (5) years thereafter.

The Intellectual Property is, in principle, public information. Each University has the right to publish the Intellectual Property generated by it.

Confidential Information shall not be disclosed when publishing Intellectual Property. The Universities are entitled to review the intended publications prior to publishing. The material which is intended to be published shall be delivered to the Universities for approval in writing (including e-mail). Restricting the publication shall be claimed no later than within thirty (30) days as of receiving the material intended to be published. Restricting the publication may only be claimed on well-founded grounds, which may either be the protection of Confidential Information or protecting intellectual property rights included in the intended publication. Should this be the case, the Universities shall negotiate amending the publication and avoid the situation, where the whole publication would be banned. If the

Universities have not expressed their well-founded and specified claim to restrict the publication within the said time limit, the publication shall be considered permitted.

§ 21 Liability

The Universities shall carry out the work related to the Degree Programme using reasonable skill, care and diligence as well as professional personnel. The Universities shall not, however, be held liable for the content of the Intellectual Property. Additionally, the University using the Intellectual Property shall be exclusively liable for the use it puts such Intellectual Property, including the intellectual property rights relating thereto.

The Universities shall be liable towards each other for damage caused by a breach of contract. The liability of either University arising in any way out of the subject matter of this Agreement shall not extend to any indirect or consequential loss or damage. The liability of a University shall in all cases be limited to the share of financing of the University in breach in accordance with this Agreement. The limitations of liability set out herein shall not apply if the damage is caused by a willful act or gross negligence.

Each University shall be solely liable for any loss, destruction, damage, death or injury to the persons or property of the University in question or of the University's employees or third parties resulting directly or indirectly from performance of the Degree Programme activities by the University in question under the present Agreement.

The Universities shall not be liable for damage caused by any delay or failure in the performance of the other Universities. The Universities shall not be liable for damage caused by any delay or failure due to force majeure.

All claims against a University shall be made no later than one (1) year as of the date the damage incurred or the date the aggrieved University aware of the damage. All claims for damages shall, however, be made no later than one (1) year as of the termination of this Agreement.

The coronavirus (COVID-10) (hereafter referred to as the "Coronavirus") has led to restrictions on travelling and assembly in several countries, as well as other exceptional measures. If the Coronavirus or the resulting international, national or organisational restrictions make it impossible or unreasonable to initiate or carry out activities under this Agreement, the Parties shall have the right to terminate or postpone the initiation or implementation of activities under this Agreement without liability to the other Party. The Party must immediately inform the other Party in writing of said discharging or transfer, as well as the transfer of the estimated duration of this paragraph.

In the event of any controversy, claim or dispute arising out of or relating to any provision of this Agreement, the Universities shall try to settle those conflicts amicably between themselves within ninety (90) days as of either University's request for amicable settlement negotiations. Should the Universities fail to so settle then, the matter in dispute shall be finally and exclusively settled by binding arbitration according to the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") with the composition of one arbitrator. The arbitral proceedings shall take place in Brussels in the English language.

§22 Human Rights

The parties ensure that they shall respect human rights.

§23 Clause concerning the joint processing of personal data - student exchange (GDPR)

The Parties agree that they will act as Joint Controllers for the processing of Personal Data in the context of the implementation of the underlying agreement. The Parties therefore wish to define their rights and obligations with regard to the protection of personal data as established in the European General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (hereinafter the "GDPR") of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46 / EC, as well as in the Act of 30 July 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (hereinafter the "Personal Data Processing Act");

The terms below are used in the meaning as defined in the GDPR and the Personal Data Processing Act.

1. The Parties will process the following Personal Data in the context of the implementation of the underlying

agreement:

(a) Personal data shared in the context of enrolment at all partner institutions:

name - first name - sex - national number - date of birth - place of birth - country of birth - nationality - e-mail home institution - correspondence address (private) - mobile number - training - course units and curriculum components - passport photo

(b) Personal data shared in the context of the admission and selection procedure:

title - civil status - skype id - proof of residence - motivation for the application for enrolment - motivated application for scholarships - curriculum vitae - letters of recommendation or contact data reference persons - language certificate - scan or copy of identity document - application form coordinating institution- copies of diploma documents and certificates concerning previous studies (with an eye to admission to the study programme)- transcripts of records

(c) Personal data pertaining to the curriculum and study results, shared in the context of the joint organisation of the master's programme and of the awarding of the joint degree

course units - transcript of records - assessment reports master's dissertation - proof of obtaining a diploma

(d) Personal Data required for ad hoc trouble solving on demand of the student

Exchange of information on residence and insurance documents in the context of problem-solving

The personal data processed by the Parties include the following categories of data subjects: Students.

2. The Parties undertake to communicate with the Data Subjects in a transparent manner on how they can exercise the rights that are granted to them under the GDPR.

The Parties will provide the Data Subjects with the information set out in Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR by including it in their privacy statement, which will be made explicit as follows:

The University of Groningen (coordinating university) will publish the provisions referred to in this article on its webpage concerning privacy statement, which is published on the following URL:

<https://www.rug.nl/info/privacy#:~:text=Privacyverklaring,zij%20doet%20met%20uw%20persoonsgegevens>.

Ghent University will publish the provisions referred to in this article on its webpage concerning the Ghent University privacy statement, which is published on the following URL:

<https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/inschrijven/privacy>, and which is referred to in the Student Agreement, which is signed by students upon enrolment at Ghent University.

The University of Eastern Finland will publish the provisions referred to in this article on its website concerning privacy statement, which is published on the following URL: <https://www.uef.fi/en/processing-of-personal-data>.

3. The Parties undertake to respect the confidentiality obligation when processing personal data and to provide each other with the required assistance that is necessary and / or may reasonably be expected to enable them to meet their obligations under the GDPR.

4. In the event that a Data Subject makes any request regarding his or her personal data to a Party, the responsibility for the execution of such a request lies with the Party receiving the request. The other Party shall assist them in this.

5. If the personal data is processed and / or stored outside of the European Economic Area or by an international organisation, and insofar as no adequacy decision applies, the Parties must additionally sign the standard clauses drawn up by the European Commission. The processing and storage will always take place in accordance with the GDPR as well as, where applicable, the national legislation of the country where the data is being processed / stored, if that would also apply.

6. The Parties shall ensure that appropriate technical and organisational measures are taken to protect the personal data against loss or any form of unlawful processing. The measures to be taken are in line with the available technology. In the event that there is an infringement with regard to personal data, the Party who committed the infringement will be responsible for the communication (if any) to the Data Subject and, if applicable, to the supervisory authority. The Party will also notify the other Party in writing without unreasonable delay. The Party who committed the infringement is obliged to immediately take the appropriate measures at its own expense to stop the infringement and to limit any adverse consequences of the infringement.

7. If a Data Subject or a third party believes to have suffered damage as a result of (unlawful) processing of personal data or failure to fulfil an obligation, the Party responsible for processing or complying with the obligation will fully indemnify the other Party for this in accordance with the liability rules as established in the GDPR. If the supervisory authority imposes a fine as a result of an unlawful or negligent act of one Party, it will be obliged to indemnify the other Party in case they have also been imposed with a fine.

8. Mr Jan-Willem Oordt (j.w.oordt@rug.nl) or Mrs. Ingrid van der Meer (y.van.der.meer@rug.nl) (privacy officer and security coordinator) act as contact persons on behalf of the University of Groningen within the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mr A.R. (Arjen) Deenen (a.r.deenen@rug.nl) acts as data protection officer on behalf of the University of Groningen in the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs Marisa Montero Perez (<mailto:marisa.monteroperez@ugent.be>) acts as a contact person on behalf of Ghent University within the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs Hanne Elsen (hanne.elsen@ugent.be) acts as data protection officer on behalf of GHENT UNIVERSITY in the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs. Helena Eronen (helena.eronen@uef.fi) or Olavi Manninen (olavi.manninen@uef.fi) act as contact persons on behalf of the University of Eastern Finland within the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs Helena Eronen (helena.eronen@uef.fi) acts as data protection officer on behalf of the University of Eastern Finland in the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

§24 Applications of Laws

The institutions agree that every person connected with the Degree Programme in relation to the mutual undertakings with each other shall abide by, conform to, and comply with all of the laws of Finland, Belgium, and the Netherlands or other relevant jurisdictions as well as the statutes, regulations and disciplinary rules promulgated by each Institution. Each Institution shall provide Degree Programme participants with a copy of its statutes, regulations and disciplinary rules. The disputes arising on the interpretation of this agreement shall be solved according to Belgian law.

§25 Validation

All partners should sign on separate papers with paper head.

This agreement shall come into force as of September 1, 2021, referred to as T0 by all the partners,

for a duration of six academic years which includes the last cohort year 2026. Students who started with the Degree Programme will be assured to be able to finish their studies as long as they finish within 8 terms (double regular study period) from the onset of their first registration. This agreement will remain in effect until a six-month advance notification of termination by either party. Changes and supplements always need written approval by all full partners and are considered inseparable components of this agreement.

Each of the parties may terminate this agreement with immediate effect if the other party is involved in a serious violation of human rights.

§26 Signatures

This Agreement is made and signed in three similar copies, one for each University. The Universities warrant that the persons undersigning this Agreement are authorised to sign for the organization they represent.

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07 OKT 2021



university of
 groningen

Prof. Dr. Jouke de Vries (University of Groningen)

(signature)



----- (signature)
Prof. Rik Van de Walle, PhD (Ghent University)

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Prof. Janne Pietarinen, PhD (University of Eastern Finland)



(signature)

Annexes

The following annexes will be added

- Annex I: Student Agreement
- Annex II: Scholarship Agreement
- Annex III: Internship Rules and Regulations
- Annex IV: Master Thesis Rules and Regulations
- Annex V: Degree Programme (curriculum) academic years 2021-2026
- Annex VI: Budget Projection