



Consortium on Ethics in Higher Education

Agreement

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150 route de Ferney

CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 791 62 49

Email educonsortium@globethics.net

Website www.globethics.net/globethics-consortium

GLOBETHICS CONSORTIUM ON ETHICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AGREEMENT

PREAMBLE

Cognisant of the fact that an ethical society is needed to train future leaders through education for values-driven life, centred on sustainable development:

Recognizing that a consortium of institutions to promote ethics in higher education through various collaborative measures would help to:

- Strengthen the ethical reputation of higher education by supporting efforts to integrate values-based decision in governance, management and daily practice of staff, management and board of educational institutions;
- Promote the professional ethical awareness and providing support to teachers to help them being adequately equipped to teach values;
- Support students with tools and resources to think and act according to values;
- Integrate ethical reflection and action in research, ensuring that research goals are beneficial and means not harmful; and
- Raise awareness of policy makers on the need to integrate values-based policies in education and in research.

Given that the Globethics Consortium on Ethics in Higher Education was established on 23 June 2017 with the support of founding institutional members.

1. NAME AND DEFINITION

The Globethics.net Foundation and its partners in higher education enter into an agreement to form the GLOBETHICS CONSORTIUM ON ETHICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, hereafter referred to as "the Consortium".

- The Consortium Members are institutions of higher education that engage to support and implement the objectives of this initiative through collaboration and mutual support.
- The Steering Committee of the Consortium is the leadership group representing the Consortium members.
- The Pool of Experts is composed of individual members who are experts in their field and are willing to provide their expertise to Consortium members through a Service Agreement signed with the Globethics.net Foundation.

2. LEGAL FORM AND LIABILITY

The Consortium is an instrument of the Globethics.net Foundation, with its Head Office at 150 route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, a registered foundation by Swiss law. Globethics.net as the legal project holder, is liable towards third parties (Swiss Code of Obligations, Article 543). The financial liability of the Consortium members is limited to their contribution unless otherwise defined. Where commitments exist towards third parties, responsibilities and liabilities will be defined on a case by case basis, in accordance to the specificity of the task.

3. PURPOSE

The aim of the Consortium is to provide favourable conditions for collaboration among members and implementation of the Globethics.net mission through consulting, training, research and project management on Ethics in Higher Education.

The Consortium's goal and actions are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UNESCO Education Framework 2030:

- Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning;
- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development (SDG 4, UNESCO); and
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms; develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (SDG 16).

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Categories

- The Consortium is open to publicly registered institutions of higher education, i.e. universities, business schools, distant learning institutions, vocational and professional training institutes, seminaries, international and regional associations of universities, university regulatory commissions and institutions promoting ethical values in higher education.
- There are two categories of members: 1) Institutional Members are classified in four country categories (High income, Upper Middle income, Lower Middle income and Low income) and three size categories (small, medium and large); and 2) Individual Members are individuals related to an institution of higher education and/or those interested in ethics in higher education.

4.2 Rights and Obligations of Members

- Institutional Members pay an annual membership fee according to their country income level (see the Annex). Institutional Members may offer or benefit from services and products to/from Consortium members at preferential rates.
- Individual members pay an annual membership fee according to their country income level (see the Annex). They can apply to be part of the Pool of Experts if conditions are met. Individual members that are experts in their own field may offer their expertise or benefit from services and products to/from Consortium members under a separate Service Agreement.

5. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- The Steering Committee is composed of five to seven members, who guide the implementation of the initiative, to be ratified by the Globethics.net Board of Foundation. Membership of the Committee can be renewed up to a maximum of two consecutive terms (six years in total). The Executive Director of Globethics.net is a member and president ex-officio of the Committee and drives/co-ordinates the agenda of the Committee.
- Globethics.net staff (including Globethics.net Regional Programmes and National Contacts), coordinate and implement the Consortium activities in line with the work plan agreed upon by the Committee and the Executive Director of Globethics.net.
- The Pool of Experts: accredited experts can apply for and be selected to serve institutional Consortium members for specific mandates.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES OF PARTIES

6.1 *Globethics.net Board of Foundation*

- Decides on the terms of the Consortium Agreement
- Decides on Annual Budget and Accounts of the Consortium
- Appoints members of the Steering Committee

6.2 *Consortium members*

In addition to points 3 and 4.2 above, Consortium members

- Adhere to the Code¹ of Ethics of the Consortium
- Take part in joint projects identified and coordinated by the Consortium
- Benefit from shared experiences, activities and resources with other members through a common platform

6.3 *Steering Committee*

- Promotes Consortium activities and recruits new members
- Approves list of new and departing members
- Leads strategic move of Consortium and establishes the work plan

6.4 *The Pool of Experts*

- Experts facilitate the implementation of the work plan set by the Steering Committee
- Experts may lead specific projects for the Consortium and clients through a Service Agreement with Globethics.net.

¹ The Code of Ethics to be agreed upon among members.

7. ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSORTIUM

The Consortium offers programmes, products and services to meet the needs expressed by Consortium Members and other stakeholders in the implementation of the mission of Globethics.net.

8. FINANCING MODEL

The Consortium financial resources are derived from

- Membership fees
- Service fees
- Private and public subsidies
- Donations and legacies and
- Any other resources authorised by the law.

The funds shall be solely used in conformity with the goals and activities as laid out under this agreement (points 1 and 4).

8.1 Membership fees

Membership fees are charged to cover basic coordination and operational costs of the Consortium as established through the Consortium budget. Membership fees are paid in cash.

- Institutions must pay an annual fee - established by the Steering Committee based on a pro rata calculation related to the number of students and the country of establishment applicable to each institution.
- Individual members pay an annual fee according to the level of income of the country where they are located.
- Membership fees for associations will be established on a case by case basis by the Steering Committee.

8.2 Service fees

Consortium members may offer their expertise or benefit from services from other members of the Consortium. The Consortium will charge fees for specific services rendered to members and non-members.

- The services provided to members shall be agreed upon and remunerated under separate specific agreements. Proceeds of services rendered and any other revenues that derive thereof will be accounted as revenue of the Consortium.

8.3 Public and private subsidies, donation and legacies

As a registered foundation, Globethics.net Foundation is authorised to receive donations, subsidies and legacies from public and private entities and individuals, for activities that are described under Globethics.net products and services.

- Consortium members have the right to full transparency on donations received and their utilisation.
- Projects implemented by Consortium members are supervised by the Globethics.net Executive Committee (composed of the Globethics.net Management Team and the Academic Dean) through a service agreement between Globethics.net and the implementing member. Financial responsibility shall legally remain with the Globethics.net Foundation.

9. ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

The Consortium Agreement shall enter into force after approval by the Globethics.net Board of Foundation. It is bilaterally signed by Globethics.net and the institutional and individual members.

Membership ceases in one of the following cases:

- i. On dissolution of the Consortium by Globethics.net;
- ii. By written resignation of one of its members notified at least six months before the end of the calendar year, i.e. by 30 June or 31 December. Unpaid Membership is still due until the expiry date of membership.
- iii. Exclusion ordered by the Steering Committee, for just cause such as non-adherence to the Code of Ethics (as defined under point 6.2);
- iv. Failure to pay the annual contribution fee.

This Consortium Agreement can be modified by proposal of the Consortium members and by approval of the Globethics.net Board of Foundation.

10. SIGNATORIES

I/We hereby agree to the conditions set by this Agreement, and am/are willing to abide to the rules on duties and responsibilities as a Member of the Consortium.

- For the Globethics.net Foundation Prof. Dr Obiora Ike, Executive Director

Date and Place _____ Signature _____

- For [name of Consortium Member] / [name of legal representative]

Date and Place _____ Signature _____

Annex: Types of Membership and Membership Fees

- Membership fees are aimed to cover basic coordination and operational costs of the Consortium as established through the Consortium budget. The yearly fee shall be established by the Committee and shall be based on a pro rata calculation for each institution, based on the number of students and the country of establishment.
- Reference: the World Bank country classification by gross national income (high, upper middle, lower middle and low income) and the size of the institution are used to calculate the membership fees.
- Options: institutional membership and individual membership. Institutions can opt to be an institutional member and pay a premium (one-time payment) and subsequent annual membership fees applicable.
- Terms: Institutional Membership fees are due within 60 days of signing the Consortium Agreement. If the payments are not received by Globethics.net within 120 days (four months), the membership is suspended. Individual Membership fees are due within 30 days of application to become a member. If the payments are not received by Globethics.net within 60 days (two months), the membership application is rejected.

The annual fee is calculated as follows: the full annual fee is applicable for application between 1 January and 30 June. A reduction of 50% of the first year's annual fee is applicable for applicants between 1 July and 31 December.

Number of Students	*Institutional Membership Fees (USD)			Individual Fees
	Less than 8'000	8 to 30'000	More than 30'000	
Size	Small	Medium	Large	
High Income	3,500	6,000	10,000	150
Upper Middle Income	2,500	3,500	5,000	100
Lower Middle Income	1,500	2,500	3,000	50
Low Income	750	1,500	2,500	50

* World Bank Country Classification, <http://go.worldbank.org/L547EEP5C0>

I am interested in the following membership (Individual / Institutional)

I am represent the Institution (specify Institution Name / Membership)

Date and Signature:

Start Date: