

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN



European  
Citizen Science  
Association

The **European Network of Living Labs** (hereinafter referred to as “ENoLL”), established in 2006, is a global network of benchmarked, open, and user-driven innovation ecosystems. Directly, as well as through its active members who have undergone the evaluation process as ENoLL Certified Living Labs, ENoLL provides co-creation, user engagement, test and experimentation facilities for rapid prototyping and scale-up of businesses, and innovation across domains. Living Labs are open innovation ecosystems in real-life environments based on a systematic user co-creation approach that integrates research and innovation activities in communities, placing citizens and users at the centre of innovation.

The **European Citizen Science Association** (hereinafter referred to as “ECSA”) is a membership organisation set up in 2014. The main goals are to increase the democratisation of science, encourage the growth of citizen science in Europe, and support the participation of the public in research processes across the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

**WHEREAS**, ENoLL endeavours to promote and enhance user-driven innovation ecosystems -more precisely, the Living Lab concept globally-, and seeks to complement and develop its activity and role as a platform for best practice exchange, learning, and Living Lab international project development and support, acknowledging the work carried out by ECSA in the areas of Citizen Science

**WHEREAS**, ECSA endeavours to promote and enhance knowledge sharing and matchmaking opportunities among its members and relevant stakeholders within the extended network of ENoLL, and seeks to incorporate aspects such as citizen-centricity and social innovation in its programs and other activities, acknowledging the necessity of citizen-driven innovation in the successful deployment of smart and sustainable city initiatives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, ECSA and ENoLL (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually each a "Party") wish to set forth the terms and understanding for tangible cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and have agreed to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU"), as follows:

### **Article 1 - Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a framework for collaboration between the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) and the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA). The Parties aim to explore and engage in collaborative activities that are practical, aligned with their guiding principles, and meet their organizational needs. The primary objective of this collaboration is to enhance the knowledge and utilization of the Citizen Science and Living Lab approach on a European and global scale. By working together, the Parties seek to advance in the

understanding, implementation, and impact of Citizen Science and Living Lab methodologies, ultimately contributing to the advancement of research, innovation, and societal well-being. Particularly, the Parties will explore the interlink between Citizen Science and Living Labs -as complementary approaches- for the empowerment of all citizens through both citizen-centric knowledge generation and citizen-centric innovation.

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

1. **Mutual Promotion.** Considering certain geographical and thematic advantages of each Party, the Parties will support each other by utilizing and leveraging the other Party's existing network to mutual benefit. Such support may include, but is not limited to, assistance in promoting and endorsing programs and projects through promotional activities, and potential joint actions in the Parties' annual events and conferences, such as the ECSA Annual Conference and the ENoLL Open Living Labs Days Conference.
2. **Joint Organization of Events.** The Parties will cooperate on the organization of joint sessions and other events that will serve as platforms for networking and matchmaking (including each Party's regular conferences and sessions, workshops and study tours, task forces, etc.) among diverse members and partners of each Party's network, to boost open dialogue and closer partnerships. This will include exploration of opportunities to support and complement both Parties' capacity building programs.
3. **Mutual Knowledge Sharing.** The Parties will collaborate on actively sharing their respective expertise and accumulated experience, such as smart sustainable solutions and living labs, through compilations of best practice, speakerships, expert reviews, judging panels, and other

knowledge sharing initiatives, to enrich the Parties' respective conceptual frameworks.

4. **Joint Strategic Development.** The Parties will seek to identify ample avenues for project implementation and financing in local governments and living labs around the world across various sectors. These may include, but are not limited to, the participation in joint working groups and task forces, joint project proposals for funding from financing institutions, or matchmaking activities for the purpose of pilot or actual deployment of projects.
5. **Capacity Building.** The Parties will leverage partnerships to produce capacity building and training programs that provide informative courses and practical experiences for participants that range from civil servants, researchers, employees, youth, and students. The format of capacity building can consist of lectures, study visits, online courses, virtual meetings, and more.
6. **Expansion of Partnership.** The Parties shall attend to the strategic development plans that are shared in common and connect and combine the networks in order to expand and strengthen the global impact that both Parties intend to create according to the shared mission and objectives. The networking can take the form of joint virtual meetings, email introductions, invitation letters, or through any other channels of communication.

## **Article 2 - Communication**

For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of this MOU, all communication between the Parties shall be directed to the designated liaison officers. The liaison officer of one Party may be changed with notice to the other Party.

**For ENoLL**

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**For ECSA**

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**Article 3 - Funding**

This MOU does not impose any financial obligations on the Parties. However, the Parties may enter into additional agreements for specific activities by mutual consent.

**Article 4 - Logos**

Each Party may use the logo of the other Party on their respective websites and publications to indicate the other Party as an MoU partner and to promote joint activities, projects and events, as mutually agreed. In other cases, neither Party will use the names, logos, or other intellectual property of the other Party without its prior written authorization.

**Article 5 - Entry into Force**

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of both Parties' authorized representatives. It shall become effective upon signature by the authorized representatives of both Parties and will remain in effect until modified by mutual consent or terminated by either Party.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties hereto execute this MOU in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.



For ENOLL:

**Dr. Evdokimos Konstantinidis**

Chairperson of ENOLL's Executive Board

September 19, 2023



For ECSA:

**Ms. Dorte Riemenschneider**

Director

September 19, 2023