



**UNIMORE**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



Co-funded by  
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The green European University



## AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME BETWEEN

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA, DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DELLA VITA (DSV)  
AND**

**THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA, ESCOLA SUPERIOR AGRÁRIA DE COIMBRA (ESAC)**

Within the framework of the UNIGreen Alliance (Project 101089386 ERASMUS-EDU-2022-EUR-UNIV-2), the University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, represented by the Rector Prof. Carlo Adolfo Porro, Via Università 4, 41121 Modena (Italy), and the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, represented by the President Prof. Jorge Conde, Rua da Misericórdia, Lagar dos Cortiços, S. Martinho do Bispo, 3045-093 Coimbra (Portugal),

- considering the efforts to harmonise higher education programmes and to establish international curricula fostering the international labour market as well as improving student mobility;
- having regard to the DM 270/2004 (revision of the act 509/1999) of the Minister for University and Research, allowing Italian universities to independently develop their own curricula (according to the law 341 of the 19-11-1990, art.11);
- having regards to the Portuguese legal framework for higher education degrees and diplomas, Decret-Law 74/2006, from 24<sup>th</sup> March, updated by Decret-law 65/2018, from 16<sup>th</sup> August and Decret-Law 27/2021, from 16<sup>th</sup> August, in its articles from 41<sup>o</sup> to 44<sup>o</sup>, that provides Portuguese higher education Institutions may join forces with other higher education establishments, national or foreign, to carry out study cycles leading to degrees and diplomas. Besides, double/multiple degrees presuppose student mobility, as mentioned in article 44<sup>o</sup> of the same Decree-Law;

agree:

- a) to offer an International Double Degree Programme (henceforth named DDP);
- b) to strengthen the collaboration and the exchange of students and professors of both proponent Institutions.

### ARTICLE 1

#### Aim of the agreement

The University of Modena e Reggio Emilia (hereinafter named UniMore)

and

the Polytechnic University of Coimbra (hereinafter named PUC)

approve the text of this agreement aiming at the establishment of a DDP and undertake to award the following diplomas:

- a Master's Degree in Organic Agriculture ("*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica - DGES-6799*", Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra) from PUC;
- a Master's Degree in Integrated Sustainability of Agricultural Systems ("*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli - classe LM-69*", Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita) from UniMore.

The number of double degree students to be exchanged is fixed up to maximum of ten (10) per academic year for each University.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **Management of the programme**

A Bilateral Committee will be established and will be composed of at least three (3) academic representatives from each University, appointed by each partner, and will act in coordination with the Department/School of both high education Institutions. Decisions will be jointly taken by the representatives of PUC and UniMore in the Bilateral Committee. Meetings of the Bilateral Committee may also be attended by other academics or administrative personnel of the participating Universities.

The Bilateral Committee has the following tasks:

- a) to identify the exact number of double degree students to be exchanged each year;
- b) to create the conditions necessary for the implementation of the agreement;
- c) to guarantee the observance of the general regulations of the study programme at the Home and at the Host University;
- d) to approve, within the frame allowed by local/national rules, slight changes in the amount of credits to be awarded to the student(s) at the Home or at the Host University;
- e) to assure the participating students' tutorage (the Bilateral Committee may be assisted by a person appointed by the Host University as tutor for the participating students);
- f) to control the procedures of the study programme;
- g) to approve the final students' study plans (Learning Agreement);
- h) to manage exceptions and problematic cases.

The Bilateral Committee will meet at least once a year as a rule. Each meeting can take place through conference/video calls, or in person, and it is regularly constituted when at least two academic representatives from each University are present. The decisions are taken by the majority.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **Selection of participating students**

The students of Master of Science course *“Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli - classe LM-69”* (SISTA) must apply and be admitted to the Master of Science course *“Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica - DGES-6799”* (MAB) in order for their attendance at the MAB course to be credited in their study plan and to obtain a DD diploma.

The students of Master of Science course *“Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica - DGES-6799”* (MAB) must apply and be admitted to the Master of Science course *“Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli - classe LM-69”* (SISTA) in order for their attendance at the SISTA course to be credited in their study plan and to obtain a DD diploma.

Each University is responsible for the selection of its participating students under the conditions stated above and enforced by the Bilateral Committee. The selection of the participants in the DDP will be based

on students' academic records, CV, motivation, language proficiency and other requirements set by the sending University and agreed by the Bilateral Committee.

Selected students will be reviewed by the partner Institution upon completing a formal application to the programme within the deadlines imposed by the partner Institution. Admission to the DDP is conditional until the minimum requirements of this agreement have been met. Each partner has the right to reject candidates proposed by the other University, but is obliged to motivate this rejection.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **Admission requirements and study programme**

###### **1. Admission to PUC for UniMore students**

PUC will admit, as regular students, students from UniMore who:

- a) are enrolled in the Master of Science course "*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli - classe LM-69*";
- b) have applied and be admitted to the Master of Science course "*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica - DGES-6799*";
- c) have proven their sufficient motivation and English language skills through a selection interview (level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference).

###### **2. Admission to UniMore for PUC students:**

UniMore will admit, as regular students, students from PUC who:

- a) are enrolled in the Master of Science in "*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica - DGES-6799*";
- b) have applied and be admitted to the Master of Science course "*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli - classe LM-69*";
- c) have proven their sufficient motivation and English language skills through a selection interview (level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference).

###### **3. Specific study requirements**

In order to meet the requirements for a Double Degree, master's students are required to remain for at least six (6) months at the Host Institution and must obtain the credits required by the specific course at the partner Institution and the remaining semesters and credits at their Home Institution, according to the study plan defined jointly and attached to this agreement (**Annex 1**). The study programs, attached to the present agreement, may be modified by mutual agreement between the parties, provided that no prejudice to the students already enrolled is implied.

Students, in order to maintain their status of Double Degree students, have to fulfil at least 50% of the foreseen yearly workload.

#### **4. Withdrawal**

If a student wants to withdraw from the programme, his period abroad will be treated as an Erasmus exchange. All credits gained at the Host University will be acknowledged by his Home University.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

##### **Tuition and financial support**

Students have to pay their fees at the Home University; no additional fees will be paid at the Host University, except for a minor compulsory fee for the access to facilities each year.

Each University will take the necessary measures in order to obtain the best possible financial support for the exchange students.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

##### **Dissertation**

Students enrolled in the DDP will be awarded two diplomas, one by each University together with diploma supplement (if available) on the basis of the successful completion of the study plan and of the successful defence of the Master's dissertation. The final examination shall take place at the Home University, and each diploma should preferably give evidence of the student's participation in the DDP.

The final thesis shall be co-supervised by an academic advisor of both Institutions, and the role of Main Advisor and Co-Advisor(s) will be decided by mutual agreement between the teachers involved. The final thesis may be written in English. In the event that the thesis will be written in Italian or in Portuguese, it must be accompanied by a summary in English, ranging from a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 10 pages. The co-supervisor from the partner University shall be invited to take part in the final exam commission, which shall, therefore, be integrated or enlarged, also through conference/video call.

The thesis defence at the PUC allows the award of the title at UniMore and viceversa.

The Host University shall provide the partner Institution with all the necessary documentation for the award of its own degree title in due time.

The Host Universities commit to issue to students who have attended courses a certification (Transcript of records) reporting the courses attended, the relevant grades, and the number of credits awarded.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

##### **Rights and duties of the participating students**

Each participating student should observe the following principles while at the Host University:

- both Universities will ensure that the students have equal access to all facilities offered to regular students of the Host University, such as the use of computers, access to the library, obtaining of a student ID card, etc.;
- each student will be responsible for his/her own living expenses (accommodation, meals, etc.).
- each student must provide his/her own transportation to/from the Home University to the Host University;
- violation of Host University rules and/or local law committed in the host country, as well as non-observance of the study requirements (see Article 4, clause 3) may result in the immediate withdrawal of the programme;
- the students will be required to have an injury policy and a third Party liability insurance policy for the duration of their stay in the Host Institution. UNIMORE and PUC declares to have an appropriate third Party liability insurance policy and an injury policy.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Terms and duration of the agreement**

This agreement entails no financial obligation on either of the partner Universities.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of the last signature. Thereafter it may be renewed by the parties for an additional period of three (3) years at each expiration date unless either Party provides written notice to terminate the Agreement six months' before the expiration date. Termination will not affect exchange students to be in progress or those already approved prior to their effective date of termination.

The present Agreement is drawn up in English in two original copies, with each Party receiving one original copy.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **Final regulations**

In the event of a dispute the parties shall endeavor to reach an amicable settlement. Should these attempts fail, the dispute/s shall be referred for settlement to an agreed upon third Party.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **Treatment of Personal Data**

All personal data will be processed in full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation UE 679/2016 (GDPR), as well as with the current national legislation.



**UNIMORE**  
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University of Modena e Reggio Emilia

Head of Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita

*Prof. Lorena Rebecchi*

Polytechnic University of Coimbra

Head of Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra

*Prof. Rui Manuel Pires Amaro*

Rector

*Prof. Carlo Adolfo Porro*

President

*Prof. Jorge Conde*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annex 1: International Double Degree study plan**

**Annex 2: Grades Equivalence for UniMore and PUC students**

## – ANNEX 1 –

### INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE DEGREE STUDY PLAN

#### By UniMore:

Master's Degree in Integrated Sustainability of Agricultural Systems  
*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli*

#### By PUC:

Master's Degree in Organic Farming  
*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica*

#### 1. Structure of the programme for UniMore students obtaining the Double Diploma

- 1.1 UniMore students enrolled in the "*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli*" (SISTA–LM69) must apply to the DDP during the first semester of the first year and, upon admission, they will carry out their mobility (min. 6 months, max. 1 year) during the second year of the course.
- 1.2 In order to reach 120 ECTS credits and to be awarded the "*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica*" (MAB–DGES-6799), students in the DDP must obtain at least 30 ECTS credits during the period of time spent at PUC. Credits earned abroad are validated upon student's return.
- 1.3 The list of courses and other curricular activities that UniMore students enrolled in the DDP can select during their mobility at PUC (**Table A**) is confirmed or updated annually by mutual agreement between the parties.
- 1.4 The language used for teaching at UniMore is Italian, while at PUC it is Portuguese. MAB–DGES-6799 provides students with support materials and translates some lectures into English.
- 1.5 In the case of students who carry out the thesis preparation at PUC, they will have to discuss it in a regular graduation session at UniMore.
- 1.6 At the end of the master's degree course all examination criteria of both universities must be satisfied and the credits earned in the DDP are managed by UniMore or PUC, depending on student's Institution of origin.

#### 2. Structure of the programme for PUC students obtaining the Double Diploma

- 2.1 PUC students enrolled in the "*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica*" (MAB–DGES-6799) must apply to the DDP during the first semester of the first year and, upon admission, they will carry out their mobility (min. 6 months, max. 1 year) during the second year of the course.
- 2.2 In order to reach 120 ECTS credits and to be awarded the "*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli*" (SISTA–LM69), students in the DDP must obtain at least 30 ECTS credits during the period of time spent at UniMore. Credits earned abroad are validated upon student's return.
- 2.3 The list of courses and other curricular activities that PUC students enrolled in the DDP can select during their mobility at UniMore (**Table B**) is confirmed or updated annually by mutual agreement between the parties.
- 2.4 The language used for teaching at PUC is Portuguese, while at UniMore it is generally Italian. SISTA–LM69 provides students with teaching and support material in English; moreover, some elective courses are taught in English.

- 2.5 In the case of students who carry out the thesis preparation at UniMore, they will have to discuss it in a regular graduation session at PUC.
- 2.6 At the end of the master's degree course all examination criteria of both universities must be satisfied and the credits earned in the DDP are managed by PUC or UniMore, depending on student's Institution of origin.

**Table A: List of courses and other curricular activities available to UniMore students enrolled in the DDP, enabling them to obtain a minimum of 30 ECTS during their mobility at PUC. This list is subject to change in the event of modifications to the academic offer.**

Courses attended at MAB (DGES-6799)	ECTS	Recognition in SISTA (LM69) Study Plan	ECTS
<b>1<sup>st</sup> semester at PUC (Host University)</b>			
Ecology and ecosystem management <i>Ecologia e gestão de ecossistemas</i>	6	Agroecology and protection of biodiversity <i>Agroecologia e difesa della biodiversità</i>	6
Methodologies in organic agricultural production <i>Metodologias em Produção Agrícola Biológica</i>	6	Herbaceous crops agro-ecosystems <i>Agro-ecosistemi erbacei</i>	6
Methodologies in organic livestock production <i>Metodologias em Produção Pecuária Biológica</i>	6	Sustainable livestock farming <i>Produzioni zootecniche sostenibili</i>	6
Marketing, commercialisation, regulation and certification <i>Marketing, Comercialização, Regulamentação e Certificação</i>	6	Management and business development <i>Management e sviluppo d'impresa</i>	8
Plant protection in organic farming <i>Proteção de Plantas em Agricultura Biológica</i>	6	Integrated approaches for the management of plant pests <i>Approcci integrati di gestione dei fitofagi</i> OR Integrated approaches for the management of plant pathogens <i>Approcci integrati di difesa dai patogeni</i>	6
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> semester at PUC (Host University)</b>			
Quality, conservation and processing of organic products <i>Qualidade, Conservação e Transformação dos Produtos Biológicos</i>	6	Post-harvest Management of Agricultural Products – Module 1. Packaging and post-harvest quality assessment. <i>Gestione Post-Raccolta dei Prodotti Agricoli- Modulo 1. Packaging e valutazione della qualità post-raccolta</i>	6
Conservation of genetic resources <i>Conservação dos Recursos Genéticos</i>	6	Agroecology and protection of biodiversity <i>Agroecologia e difesa della biodiversità</i>	6
<b>1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at PUC (Host University)</b>			
ALL COURSES OFFERED AT MAB (up to a total of 12 credits)		Elective courses <i>Corsi a scelta dello studente</i>	12
Final internship AND thesis preparation <i>Estágio Final/tese ou dissertação</i>	25	Stage/Internship - <i>Stage/Tirocinio</i> AND Thesis preparation - <i>Preparazione della tesi</i>	6  17



**Table B: List of courses and other curricular activities available to PUC students enrolled in the DDP, enabling them to obtain a minimum of 30 ECTS during their mobility at UniMore. This list is subject to change in the event of modifications to the academic offer.**

Courses attended at SISTA (LM69)	ECTS	Recognition in MAB (DGES-6799) Study Plan	ECTS
<b>1<sup>st</sup> semester at UNIMORE (Host University)</b>			
Agroecology and protection of biodiversity <i>Agroecologia e difesa della biodiversità</i>	6	Ecology and ecosystem management <i>Ecologia e gestão de ecossistemas</i> OR Conservation of genetic resources <i>Conservação dos Recursos Genéticos</i>	6
Herbaceous crops agro-ecosystems <i>Agro-ecossistemas erbacei</i>	6	Methodologies in organic agricultural production <i>Metodologias em Produção Agrícola Biológica</i>	6
Post-harvest management of agricultural products – Module 1. Packaging and post-harvest quality assessment. <i>Gestione post-raccolta dei prodotti agricoli- Modulo 1. Packaging e valutazione della qualità post-raccolta</i>	6	Quality, conservation and processing of organic products <i>Qualidade, Conservação e Transformação dos Produtos Biológicos</i>	6
Sustainable livestock farming <i>Produzioni zootecniche sostenibili</i>	6	Methodologies in organic livestock production <i>Metodologias em Produção Pecuária Biológica</i>	6
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> semester at UNIMORE (Host University)</b>			
Management and business development <i>Management e sviluppo d'impresa</i>	8	Marketing, commercialisation, regulation and certification <i>Marketing, Comercialização, Regulamentação e Certificação</i>	6
Integrated approaches for the management of plant pests <i>Approcci integrati di gestione dei fitofagi</i> OR Integrated approaches for the management of plant pathogens <i>Approcci integrati di difesa dai patogeni</i>	6	Plant protection in organic farming <i>Proteção de Plantas em Agricultura Biológica</i>	6
<b>1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at UNIMORE (Host University)</b>			
Stage/Internship - <i>Stage/Tirocinio</i> AND Thesis preparation - <i>Preparazione della tesi</i>	6 17	Final internship AND thesis preparation <i>Estágio Final/tese ou dissertação</i>	25

## – ANNEX 2 –

### GRADES EQUIVALENCE FOR UNIMORE AND PUC STUDENTS

#### By UniMore:

Master's Degree in Integrated Sustainability of Agricultural Systems  
*Laurea Magistrale in Sostenibilità Integrata dei Sistemi Agricoli*

#### By PUC:

Master's Degree in Organic Farming  
*Mestrado em Agricultura Biológica*

#### 1. Italian–Portugues ECTS credit equivalence

Both universities use the European Credit Transfer System, ECTS. The credit is the measurement unit of student workload and it includes all forms of work foreseen, in particular contact hours and hours devoted to internships, placements, projects, fieldwork, independent study, assessment, and so forth. The workload of each course unit is expressed in its number of ECTS credits.

#### 2. Grading system of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy)

The final assessment of a course unit at the UniMore is expressed by a grade on a scale of whole numbers from 0 to 30, with 18/30 and 30/30 (plus the possibility of awarding 30 "cum laude" for outstanding performance) as the minimum and maximum passing grades, respectively.

#### 3. Grading system of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra (Portugal)

The final assessment of a course unit at the PUC is expressed by a grade on a scale of whole numbers from 0 to 20, with 10/20 and 20/20 as the minimum and maximum passing grades, respectively.

#### 4. UniMore–PUC grades equivalence table

The conversion between the Italian and the Portuguese national system of qualifications will be conducted using a ECTS Grading Scale, that is based on a percentile statistical distribution in which ECTS grades split into percentage segments (% of successful students normally achieving the pass grade) according to the following rules:

**4.1 For the Italian students.** The classification obtained in the ECTS Grading Scale in Portugal is based on the distribution of the grades (in the range of 10 to 20) obtained by all students in a course unit (exam) corresponding to the three academic years prior to those grades taking into account a minimum cohort of 30 approved students. The ECTS Grading Scale splits into five percentage segments also called A, B, C, D, E according to the following table:

ECTS Grades	% of successful students normally achieving the pass grade
A	10
B	25
C	30
D	25
E	10

Wherever the minimum number of elements in the distribution cannot be found, the previous four or five academic years can be considered until the required cohort of 30 elements can be found. Only the grades obtained through regular assessment in approved course units are taken into account in the grade distribution.

According to the Portuguese legislation (DL 42/2005, of 22 February), the grades below 10, in the 0-20 numerical scale, are failing grades and do not have a corresponding ECTS grade.

- 4.2 For the Portuguese students.** The classification obtained in the ECTS Grading Scale in Italy is based on the distribution of the grades in the range of 18 to 30 *cum laude* obtained by all students in a course unit (exam) corresponding to the three academic years prior to those grades. The ECTS Grading Scale splits into 14 percentage segments according to the following table of course grades:

Degree Class LM-69 – Classe delle lauree magistrali in Scienze e tecnologie agrarie

Grade	N° grade	% Grade	% Cumulative
18	5	1.41	100
19	3	0.85	98.59
20	7	1.97	97.74
21	5	1.41	95.77
22	6	1.69	94.36
23	9	2.54	92.67
24	15	4.23	90.13
25	9	2.54	85.90
26	23	6.48	83.36
27	32	9.01	76.88
28	60	16.90	67.87
29	22	6.20	50.97
30	86	24.21	44.77
30 <i>cum laude</i>	73	20.56	20.56

Academic years considered: from 01/11/2021 to 31/10/2024

Total marks: 355