



Memorandum of Understanding

Between:

University of Lodz and City of Lodz

Related to:

European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition (UNIC)

Preface

Universities and municipalities in post-industrial cities face unique challenges. These are related to their character and the issues around migration related diversity and social inclusion. It is especially the municipalities and universities in such post-industrial cities, which have a crucial and significant role to work towards more inclusive, secure and resilient urban societies. They have a common responsibility to collaborate and facilitate students, researchers, practitioners and educators to create a societal impact.

Especially within the post-industrial cities, it is highly important that universities and municipalities work closely together on innovative research and education to face challenges related to diversity, security and social inclusion. Only in that way, the descendants of generations of workers that have contributed to these post-industrial cities, such as the children and grandchildren of workers in the steel mines, automobile, textile and petrochemical industries, trade harbours and port cities, can be empowered.

Driven by this ambition, the ten universities of Bilbao, Bochum, Cork, Istanbul, Liege, Lodz, Malmö, Oulu, Rotterdam, and Zagreb will work together within the European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition (UNIC) initiative. And within the initiative, it is of the utmost importance that these universities can build on a close cooperative relationship with the municipalities and City Boards, in which they are embedded.



Therefore, this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) articulates the common interest of the ten universities and municipalities in the post-industrial cities, and highlights their intentions to collaborate on joint opportunities and challenges, acknowledged within the UNIC mission statement.

- The European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition (UNIC) establishes a pact within and between the universities and the municipalities of Bilbao, Bochum, Cork, Istanbul, Liege, Lodz, Malmö, Oulu, Rotterdam and Zagreb;
- This pact strengthens the cooperation between the universities and the City Boards based in post-industrial cities that face common challenges and opportunities related to ethnic, cultural, economic and religious diversities;
- The European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition (UNIC) shows a convergence of positives that will accommodate and serve the superdiverse and mobile populations of these cities. This creates the opportunity to stimulate more inclusive and resilient urban societies and enhances the societal impact of UNIC education and research.

Joint ambition

Over the years the city has been a destination for thousands of local and international students that chose the University of Lodz to receive education. Many of them later found employment here and have been calling Lodz home ever since. Jointly we managed to create an environment that provides for a culturally interesting, economically successful and educationally stimulating community to thrive. Also, a number of social projects have been implemented jointly so far and building on this fruitful cooperation we want to further jointly develop the idea of engaged research that is created for, with and within our community.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) develops the already articulated collaborations between the University of Lodz and the municipality to a next level, specified by the ambition, mission and strategy of the UNIC consortium. This MoU highlights the intention of both, the



municipality and the university, to further invest in the potentialities that evolve from the collaborative agreement with in UNIC, by these joint ambitions:

- 1) Increasing innovation in research and education
 - a) By implementing a step-by-step approach towards the establishment of a close cooperative link between the municipality and the university in generating research and teaching cases on inclusion and diversity related issues;
 - b) by exchanging networks and relevant stakeholders to connect with societal challenges to develop innovative challenge-based cases.
- 2) Serving the needs of a superdiverse city
 - a) By exploring the potential of city organizations in the area of social inclusion and diversity;
 - b) by facilitating citylabs within urban neighbourhoods and local communities dealing with specific issues in terms of migration related diversity.
- 3) Co-creating impact-by-design
 - a) By co-creating pop-up citylabs in the neighbourhoods where the local communities benefit the most of the UNIC knowledge infrastructure.
- 4) Supporting student and staff mobility
 - a) By stimulating cooperation and organising meetings between the municipality and the university, with student peer groups, staff, and urban practitioners;
 - b) by reducing any administrative, legal or institutional obstacles and barriers to the mobility of students, university staff and urban practitioners.
- 5) Accumulating knowledge exchange
 - a) By facilitating an infrastructure on evidence-informed learning towards building an Open Access UNIC Case-Database with practice-oriented cases and challenges;
 - b) by increasing the accessibility of databases within and between European cities and universities.
- 6) Creating international visibility



- a) By sharing communication expertise in designing a strategy that serves the city and the university;
- b) by communicating internally and externally about cooperative efforts within and beyond the UNIC consortium.

The City of Lodz and the University of Lodz have understood and acknowledge the above, confirm their intentions and jointly agree to collaborate on the formulated ambitions.

Signed by:

1) The City of Lodz, represented by Hanna Zdanowska, the President, Date: 01.09.2023

and

2) The University of Lodz, represented by prof. Elżbieta Żądzińska, the Rector, Date: 01.09.2023