



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE LOMBARDY REGION (REPUBLIC OF ITALY)

AND THE PROVINCE OF ZUID-HOLLAND (KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS)

The Lombardy Region (Republic of Italy) and the Province of Zuid-Holland (Kingdom of the Netherlands), hereafter the Parties;

- Recognising the importance that the Lombardy Regional Government and the Government of the Province of Zuid-Holland place on fostering dialogue and cooperation among subnational actors as key for enhancing sustainable territorial growth and eventually contributing to the broad competitiveness and cohesion objectives of the European Union;
- Noting that both Parties share the common interest in strengthening institutional ties with the view to help develop mutually beneficial partnerships between actors working in the fields of environment, business, research, innovation in their respective territories;
- Taking into consideration the common engagement in the frame of the Under2 Coalition and the commitments the Lombardy Region and the Province of Zuid-Holland have undertaken within the Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding;

- Building on the outcomes of the institutional and entrepreneurial mission the Lombardy Region – Ministry for Environment Energy and Sustainable Development carried out in Zuid-Holland in June 2016, as well as of the bilateral workshop “Nutrients in the circular economy: which perspective of cooperation” held in Milan on October 14th 2016;
- Considering on-going pilot projects in the field of bio-economy, which have been fostered in the frame of the partnerships developed in the network Vanguard Initiative –New growth through smart specialisation;
- In the light of the relations and joint initiatives already initiated by Lombardy and Zuid-Holland, both bilaterally and within international cooperation networks and platforms;
- In a paradigm of reciprocity and full respect for the laws, regulations and rules in force in the respective countries, and the international obligations reciprocally adopted by Italy and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and those derived from the common membership of the European Union;

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The Parties undertake to cooperate to favour reciprocal knowledge and partnerships between entities, companies and associations active in sustainable water management, climate change, circular economy and sustainable agriculture and they shall work to facilitate and coordinate the exchange of information and synergies between specific cooperation initiatives and activities.

Such cooperation shall have the following specific goals:

- sharing information and experience both bilaterally and in the framework of the respective membership in networks about the above mentioned issues;

- collaborating on methods and management technique to improve water quality, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to adapt to climate change in urban and rural areas, to reduce waste production and improve recycling and reuse, to enhance the sustainable management of manure and the use of digestate as a sustainable source of nutrients for agriculture, and to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture;
- coordinating on messaging, transparency, public outreach around sustainability in the above mentioned sectors;
- exchanging knowledge and collaborating on innovation and technology development and deployment for the competitiveness and environmental sustainability of enterprises.

Article 2

To achieve the aforesaid goals and within the scope of the legislative and administrative tools in force, the Parties can promote initiatives including:

- the development of common cooperation projects funded by European funds of the Parties' budgets, other European grants, or private funds according to the kind of initiative and the participants
- having dialogues and presenting shared position papers on EU dossiers with the view to effectively participate in the process of framing EU decisions, and specifically in those phases allowing regions to bring their voice
- the participation to inter-institutional working sessions and events
- the organization of bilateral dialogues among the stakeholders

Within their respective remits, the Parties shall adopt the necessary measures to produce conditions conducive to the development of reciprocal contact and

agreements between business and research professionals, according primarily to the triple–quadruple helix approach.

Article 3

To realise the aforesaid activities, the Parties can promote the creation of working groups and/or networks of experts that can use the skills of the bodies, entities and companies in their respective countries.

Within the framework of their powers, the Parties shall adopt measures able to simplify the procedures for preparing and implementing cooperation falling within the scope of this memorandum of understanding.

All the costs that might be incurred from implementing this memorandum of understanding shall come from the budgets of the Parties, without adding any additional costs to the national government budgets.

Article 4

This memorandum of understanding can be terminated at any time, by both Parties, by sending written notice at least 60 (sixty) days prior to the deadline. The termination of this memorandum of understanding shall not result in the termination of projects in progress.

Any disputes about the interpretation or application of this memorandum of understanding shall be resolved by consultation or negotiation between the Parties in compliance with the laws in force.

Article 5

This memorandum of understanding shall be drawn up in three languages, one version in Italian, another in Dutch and a third version in English, with each text being equally authentic, and it shall only take effect from the completion of the internal procedures of the respective administrations needed for it to take effect. The memorandum of understanding shall have a duration of 3 (three) years.

Signed in on

For the Lombardy Region
(Republic of Italy)

For the Province of South Holland
(Kingdom of the Netherlands)
