

## Memorandum of Understanding

Between Nunatsinni Ilisimatusarnermik Siunnersuisoqatigiit – Greenland Research Council (GRC) and Granskingarráðið – Research Council Faroe Islands (RCFI), hereinafter also referred to as the “parties”.

### Preamble

The GRC and RCFI seek to strengthen cooperation between the research and innovation communities in Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Both organisations function as national funding and policy advising agencies and play important roles in promoting bilateral cooperation in the areas of research and innovation.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to outline how the parties in cooperation may realise shared objectives. The working relationship is agreed upon according to the terms and conditions set out in the articles following this MoU.

### Background

Politically and culturally Greenland and the Faroe Islands are bound by history.

As self-governing parts of the Danish realm located in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic, the countries have common interests and encounter similar challenges. Joining forces in the frame of research could pave the way for future collaboration.

There has been an increase in bilateral relations between Greenland and the Faroe Islands in recent years, e.g., through the West Nordic Council.

The countries have mutual interests, including in the fields of oceans, climate, environment, health, culture, tourism, research infrastructure, and other matters pertaining to the Arctic region.

Through joint participation in Forum for Arktisk Forskning – FAF – and Marine Research in the North Atlantic Ocean programme – MARiNAO – new connections and collaborations have been established between the two research communities in recent years.

Furthermore, both parties value and are engaged in promoting international cooperation and initiatives such as the *United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 – Ocean Decade*, which they intend to use as a platform for common initiatives as well, focusing on the importance of the ocean for the two countries and overall development in the North Atlantic region.

Both parties face similar challenges rooted in small-scale societies in remote locations. The number of researchers in each field is limited and the dependency on individuals is high.

### **Article 1: Scope and objective**

Under the terms of this MoU and on a basis of mutual interest, equality and reciprocity, the parties seek to:

- Identify synergies between the two parties' research, innovation, and training activities.
- Create opportunities for future joint funding of activities and projects that promote bilateral and international scientific collaboration. This may include strategic funding efforts, mobility programs, and co-hosting of events such as workshops, seminars, and networking events.
- Facilitate exchange and mobility activities for professional development, providing staff from each party with the opportunity to build on administrative and organisational practices (e.g., strategic planning for organisational development, investment impact assessment, and policy development).
- Strengthen and improve gathering and usage of statistical data on research and innovation and the exchange of these.
- Promote other scientific and organisational cooperation as mutually agreed, in particular European and Nordic cooperation, working together with other organisations and stakeholders where appropriate.

### **Article 2: Working Relationship**

The development and implementation of specific activities based on this MoU can be separately defined and agreed upon between the relevant institutions carrying out specific projects and will be subject to a separate written agreement.

The parties understand that the implementation of any of the types of collaborative activities outlined in Article 1 is to be executed on a best-efforts basis and dependent on the availability of resources and financial support of the parties concerned, which may include the outcome of joint funding efforts.

### **Article 3: Management of the cooperation**

The cooperation will be managed by a Steering Board composed of the Board Chair of GRC, the Director of RCFI, and a small number of additional representatives from each party, selected as appropriate, to develop and implement the specific collaborative activities outlined in Article 1.



The Steering Board will also review and select new activities consistent with the alignment of strategies and objectives, and levels of engagement and commitment between the parties.

#### **Article 4: Interpretation**

The right of interpretation of this MoU belongs to the GRC and the RCFI as agreed by the two parties.

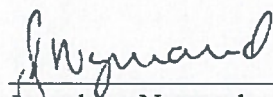
#### **Article 5: Commencement, Duration and Termination**

The effective commencement of the working relationship will be the date of the signing of this MoU. The MoU is valid for a period of two years (24 months) from the date of signing by the authorised signatories of each party. Each party will review the status of the MoU at least three months before the end of the two-year period to determine whether they wish to continue the MoU, and if so, enter any modifications that might be necessary. This MoU may, at any time during its period of validity, be terminated by one of the parties upon prior written notice to the other.

#### **Article 6: Confidentiality**

The parties may disclose certain confidential information to the other if relevant to this MoU and/or future proposals. Each party therefore agrees to maintain confidentiality of all such confidential information and shall not disclose any confidential information to any third party without a written consent from the other party. This restriction shall continue to apply after the expiration or termination of this agreement without limit of time.

Signed for and on behalf of  
Greenland Research Council



Josephine Nymand  
Board Chair

Date: June 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

Signed for and on behalf of  
Research Council Faroe Islands:



Annika Sølvará  
Director

Date: