The text of this CA has been agreed upon by the three participating partners in EMCL. It awaits final signing, which will happen soon.

Consortium agreement among the Parties of the Erasmus+ EMJMD EMCL-25 Programme

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This **Consortium Agreement** represents the joint procedure for the provision of a 120 ECTS Joint Degree Programme, titled the Erasmus+ Joint European Master Degree "European Master's in Clinical Linguistics-25" (hereinafter referred to as the "**Degree Programme**").
This Agreement has been developed by the Parties in accordance with the legislation of their respective jurisdictions and establishes joint procedures and criteria for organising the aforementioned Degree Programme and the awarding of a joint degree upon successful completion.
The Consortium Agreement is formally established on August 31, 2026 and is intended to be in full accordance with the multi-beneficiary grant agreement signed with the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "**Grant Agreement**") within the framework of the Erasmus+ Degree Programme of the European Commission fund for Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees programmes. All parties to this Agreement are subject to the rules and regulations put in place by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "**EACEA**") regarding both their responsibilities towards the EACEA and towards the other parties to this Agreement.

The undersigned parties agree to the following regulations:

§ 1 Composition of the Consortium, authorisation of executive functions

The Consortium consists of the following three full partners:

1. The University of Groningen (Netherlands), acting as coordinator of the Erasmus+ Joint European Master Degree "European Master's in Clinical Linguistics-25" (EMCL-25), hereinafter referred to as "**Coordinating Institution**" and UG, legally represented by its President, Prof. Dr. Jouke de Vries, official denomination and address Broerstraat 5, 9712 CP, Groningen, The Netherlands
   AND
2. Ghent University (Belgium), hereinafter referred to as Ugent, legally represented by its Rector, Prof. Dr. Petra De Sutter, official denomination and address St. Pietersnieuwstraat 25, 9000 Gent, Belgium
   AND
3. The University of Eastern Finland (Finland), hereinafter referred to as UEF legally represented by the Dean of its Philosophical Faculty, Prof. Janne Pietarinen, PhD, official denomination and address PO Box 111, Yliopistokatu 2, 80101 Joensuu, Finland

hereinafter referred to as "**full partners**" or "universities".

EMCL-25 has the following associated partners:

Academic sector:
Arctic University of Norway (Tromsø (N))
Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (ES)
CNRS, Côte d'Azur University, (F)

Donders Institute, Radboud University (NL)
Free University Brussels (B)
Harbin Institute of Technology (PRC)
Macquarie University (Sydney, AU)
Max Planck Institute (D)
Tashkent State University (UZ)
The New York Graduate Center (CUNY; USA)
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (USA)
University of Barcelona (ES)
University of Bordeaux (F)
University of Copenhagen (DEN)
University of Coruña (ES)
University of Hong Kong (HK)
University of Oslo (N)
University of Pittsburgh (USA)
University of Buenos Aires (Arg)

R&D sector
ANT Neuro, Hengelo (NL)
Callyope (F)
Cochlear (USA)
Duolingo (USA)
Eemagine, Berlin (DE)
Graphogame, Helsinki (FI)
IMEC Neuroscience Technology (B)
STAPP Solutions (NL)
Tobii Pro (DK)

Clinical sector
Ain Shams Cognitive Training Lab, Ain Shams University, (EG)
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin (DE)
Hôpital Lariboisière, Dept. Neurosurgery, (FR)
Koninklijke Kentalis (NL)
King's College London Hospital (UK)

Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg (D)
University Medical Center Montpellier Montpellier (FR)
University Medical Center Groningen (NL)

hereinafter referred to as "**associated partners**".

Full Partners and Associate Partners hereinafter referred to as "Party" or "Parties".

Definitions
Consortium refers to University of Groningen, Ghent University, and University of Eastern Finland;
Coordinating University refers to the University of Groningen. With regard to the Erasmus Mundus recognition and mobility grant funding, and as required by the European Commission, University of Groningen shall be referred to as the 'coordinating' university or institution;
Credit points refers to ECTS credits
Degree Programme refers to the 120-ECTS EMCL-25 programme (leading to a European Master's in Clinical Linguistics-25);
Examination mark refers to the score for an individual course, expressed in the grading (and grade conversion) system used on behalf of the Degree Programme
Final Grade refers to the overall grade (A, B, C, D or E) awarded by the Examination Board to a student upon successful completion of the Degree Programme
Full Partners refers to The University of Groningen (Netherlands), Ghent University (Belgium) and the University of Eastern Finland (Finland);
Joint Fee refers to the fee to be paid by each student for participation in the Degree Programme per academic year
Local Coordinator refers to each coordinator of the Degree Programme on the local level, i.e. at each of the full partners; for UG the Local Coordinator corresponds with the Programme Coordinator
Local Tuition Fee refers to the tuition fee in effect at the respective partner universities for parts of the Degree Programme taken by the students at their university
Module(s) refers to a coherent package of courses;
Programme Coordinator refers to the overall coordinator of the Degree Programme at the coordinating university
Programme Countries include the 27 Member states of the European Union, as well as the Republic of North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, and Serbia as defined within the ERASMUS+ programmeme of the European Community;
Partner Countries include all countries not mentioned under Programme countries, as defined within the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Community.

The Full Partners jointly manage and administer the Degree Programme. For this goal, the Parties accept that:
- The University of Groningen, is the coordinating University:
- The director of the consortium will

• sign the thesis supervision and internship agreements (copies of the draft contracts are in the Annex II and III)
• sign student agreements and scholarship agreements with the students
• provide access for the local coordinators of UEF and Ugent to the platform where all application files can be consulted in view of the organisation of the selection and admission procedure;

The university of Groningen will

• issue the Letter of Admission to all students who have been admitted to the Degree Programme according to the procedure mentioned in article 3;
• register the complete curriculum and study results of all students (whereby the study results obtained at the other partner institutions are converted to the grading system used by UG, as stipulated in article 6).
• draft associated partnership agreements in the name of the consortium with the associated partners, subject to approval by all local coordinators in a meeting of the Board of Directors;
• develop, host and maintain the EMCL website;
• manage the correspondence and administrative issues with the EACEA Agency in Brussels
• issue the joint degrees (diploma and diploma supplements) as well as the joint grade record, as defined in article 10.
• archive the student files, the curricula, study results and joint diplomas for all EMCL-25 students, as well as for providing graduates with duplicates and proof of graduation upon request.

• assume full financial management via the EMCL-25 account on behalf of the consortium, i.e. all matters pertaining to the scholarship and partnership accounts under key action 1 of Erasmus+ as well as the entire financial administration of the Degree Programme in agreement with decisions made by the Board of Directors, in particular:

- the financial management of the individual grants. Upon arrival, all students sign a scholarship contract with the Coordinating University. The student should open a SEPA bank account. The scholarship will be transferred to this account on a monthly basis as specified in the scholarship contract. In accordance with national legal obligations, the individual grants will be paid at the end of each month.
- collecting the institutional costs and transferring from the EMCL-25 consortium account to all full partners the amounts agreed upon in this agreement as well as in the annual budget approved by the Board of Directors for covering the local tuition fees and other costs related to their respective shares in the organization of the Degree Programme (such as the costs that the Coordinating University, Ugent, UEF make for compensation of participants on experiments, neuroimaging etc.), a projection of which is added as annex V;
- payments for covering administrative and consortium expenses
- payment, from the EMCL-25 consortium account, of the guest lecturers;
- establishment and payment of the insurance for all students enrolled in the Degree Programme. These students will be covered free of charge by an insurance scheme, valid worldwide, including 100% cover:

  - of doctor's fees, medicines, examinations, analyses prescribed by a physician, urgent dental care following an accident, all hospital expenses and surgical fees, repatriation in the event of serious illness or accident.
  - in case of accidental death, in all cases, including suicide: transport of the mortal remains to the place chosen by the deceased's family, funeral and laying out costs, costs of the coffin.
  - in case of permanent invalidity: around the clock cover against partial or full disability of a permanent nature resulting from an accident.
  - of third-party liability: around the clock cover against financial consequences of third party liability, which extends to the eligible candidates' host institutions.
  - of theft and loss of identification documents and travel tickets.
  - for supplementary assistance services (repatriation, early return in case of the death of a relative, dispatching of medicine abroad, search and rescue costs, telecommunication costs, emergency travel assistance, legal assistance, transportation and accommodation costs for family members in emergency situations).
- managing the selection meeting of students;
- organizing the selection of guest lecturers;
- organizing the Winter and Summer meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Studies.
- developing promotional materials and mechanisms for EMCL-25;

All three full partners undertake to provide in their universities:

- all provisions necessary to accommodate the needs of the international students in the EMCL-25 programme, including assistance with visa and bank accounts, and the provision of a confidential advisor for the students;
- free of charge, assistance to the students and guest lecturers in finding accommodation;
- free access for students and guest lecturers to the libraries and to put at their disposal any required laboratory infrastructure and equipment during sufficient usage time to students and guest lecturers;
- possibilities for the EMCL-25 students and guest lecturers to network with local students/researchers

Each full partner will notify the Coordinating University immediately if there is a change of their legal representative.

The consortium has a Board of Directors, a Selection Board, an Examination Board, and Board of Studies.
The full partners commit themselves to support the operation of the below mentioned Board of Directors, the Selection Board, the Examination Board, and the Board of Studies in all its aspects, provided that their local rules of law are respected and that certain matters for which this is explicitly stipulated in this agreement as well as all matters which go beyond this agreement, will be submitted for approval to their governing bodies, and they will encourage Board Meetings at least twice per year.

The management structure of EMCL-25 and the responsibility of these boards is given in the following table.

The management structure of EMCL-25

	Consortium Director	Board of directors	Selection board	Examination board	Board of studies
Members	Local director UG	● Local directors of the Universities of Groningen, Ghent and Eastern Finland	● 3 local directors (chair: UG) ● 1 representative from associated partners ● 1 external peer	● 1 teacher per partner institution (chair: local coordinator UEF)	● 3 Local coordinators (chair: Local coordinator Ugent) ● 2 students (one from each running cohort) ● 1 representative from associated partners
Tasks	● Take all actions necessary for the proper functioning of the Consortium and for the fulfilment of	● Organize and coordinate the Degree Programme ● Take all decisions as to the financial management of the Degree Programme, on	● Student selection and proposal for admission	● Quality Assurance of all assessments by the local Examination Board (essays, exams and theses)	● Quality assurance ● Coordination and management of the content and the quality of the programme

the contractual agreement with any external funding parties as listed sub (a) ● Timely organization of all board meetings ● Undertake all actions required for financial management cf. (a) ● Issuing letters of admission a.o. tasks mentioned sub a	the basis of financial overviews submitted to the Board by the Consortium Director at regular intervals and upon request of the Board of Directors ● Supervise implementation of the Degree Programme at the 3 universities, respecting the EMJMD rules ● Supervise implementation of internships at the associated partners ● Write intermediate and final technical reports, financial reports ● Maintain and update of the	● Check whether the consortium and local rules and regulations are obeyed ● Control standards of supervision and signing of supervision agreements ● Decide on measures to be undertaken in case of plagiarism suspicion	● Advising board of Directors on further development of the Degree Programme on the basis of quality assurance	

curriculum to answer current needs and implement quality assessment results and recommendations of the Boards

- Maintain website

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§ 2 Commitment to the aims, added value and joint nature of the Degree Programme, Structure and Contents of the Degree Programme and Joint Master's Degree

(1) The full partners subscribe to the aims of the Degree Programme. The general purpose of the Degree Programme is to offer candidates a full-time interdisciplinary and transnational university Degree Programme at Masters level, providing integrated training in experimental linguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, and clinical linguistics. The aim of the Degree Programme is to train highly qualified and advanced students who, after completion of the Degree Programme, will be widely employable. With this Degree Programme, students are excellently prepared for research work and PhD programmes in the above fields. They will also be widely employable in the R&D and clinical sector, thanks to the inclusion of representatives from these sectors as associated Partners in the Degree Programme.

(2) The full partners also acknowledge the added value of the Degree Programme and support its goal to make a genuine contribution to European university excellence and competitiveness by providing a solid theoretical basis, nurturing the students' high motivation, satisfying their strong desire to acquire specialised knowledge, skills and competencies, and training them in flexibility by mobility. They recognize that the associated partners from the academic, R&D and clinical sector contribute significantly to this added value.

(3) They agree on the contents of the Degree Programme laid down in annex IV, which fits within an integrated structure of 7 modules as well as by research extras which will be offered by all full partners throughout the Degree Programme. These modules are: (1) Linguistics; (2) Methods and statistics; (3) Psycholinguistics (4) Clinical Linguistics and Neurolinguistics; (5) Neurotechnology and IT for clinical linguistics; (6) Internship; (7) Thesis. The Research Extras can include colloquia, reading circles, and scientific excursions offered at each full partner, and the attendance of the international conference Science of Aphasia (SoA) or a comparable conference. These programme contents can

be adjusted yearly, after approval by the Management Board (MB) and by the governing bodies of the institutions organising the master programme. In order to allow for a timely adoption of these programme modifications by the different university boards, these proposals will be discussed within the MB before November 1 preceding the start of the academic year in which they will come into effect. The full partners agree that after the successful completion of the Degree Programme, the graduates will receive a joint Master degree, a joint Grade Record and a joint Diploma Supplement issued on behalf of the full partners by the Coordinating University in accordance with the provisions in article 10.

§3 Joint admission requirements, applications and selection

The full partners require applicants to have a Bachelor degree at university level (of at least 180 ECTS) or a comparable university degree, in speech and language therapy, linguistics, psychology, special education, or (bio)medical sciences. Information about the Degree Programme and application procedures can be retrieved in the English language from the website www.emcl.eu. Application forms have to be completed in the Application portal in the English language and submitted digitally by December 15 (prior to the year the student wants to start the Degree Programme), with a diploma check by the Admissions office of the Coordinating University. Applications should contain an application form, a personal and academic curriculum vitae, a description of the motivation for choosing to study the Degree Programme, a copy of the certificates and of the academic records, two references written by academics, a proof of sufficient English language knowledge by relevant test results (TOEFL iBT: 100 points or IELTS of at least 7.0 (where each part needs to be at least 6.0), and a copy of identification papers or travel passport.

The Selection Board decides upon the admission of the applicants in January and ranks successful applicants (in case of a lack of good candidates a second deadline, of April, 1 will be announced on the website) into lists for General Scholarship students, Targeted Country Scholarship students and potential self-paying students. These lists are registered in the EAECA Mobility tool prior to the deadline. After examination by the EU-agency, applicants are notified that they are admitted with or without a scholarship. The admission to the Degree Programme requires that students agree to study at each of the three full partners (“mobility plan”).

Students who have been granted admission will receive a Letter of Admission (LoA), signed by the Director of the EMCL at the Coordinating University, in the name of the consortium. Formally, admission to the programme has to be ratified by the admissions committee of the Research Master Linguistics of the University of Groningen and by the University of Eastern Finland.

This LoA sets the rules of how to register/immatriculate for the Degree Programme at each full partner and mentions the joint fee and the way of paying for self-paying students. The consortium will pay the tuition joint fee for full scholarship holders and the selected self-paying students. Registration is only official after payment of the joint fee on the consortium account. This payment must be done before the end of August, prior to the academic year the student will attend.

The students are at least registered or enrolled (depending on the regulations of the responsible university) at the participating Universities during their mobility period and during the writing of the master’s thesis at the responsible university. By 15 November of the first semester at

the latest, the coordinating university shall forward the list of admitted students, including an e-mail address for each student, to the Ghent University International Admissions Team; Ghent University shall then send each student a link with the request to register, after which the enrolment for the second term shall be completed.

§4 Costs and financing

(1) The financial and administrative coordination of the programme is carried out by The University of Groningen as the coordinating university on behalf of the consortium. An amount of €208,571 per cohort is allocated to the Coordinating University to cover coordination-related staffing costs amounting to 0.9 FTE. This allocation comprises 0.7 FTE for programme coordination, 0.1 FTE for study advice and student support, and 0.1 FTE for the Academic Lead. The coordination fee is subject to annual indexation and may be adjusted to reflect increases in personnel costs.

(2) Joint fees
The consortium charges a joint fee of € 4500 per year (programme country (EU) students) or €9000,- (for partner country (non-EU) students) to self-paying students who do not get any scholarship for participation in the programme. Programme participation costs are re-evaluated by the Board of Directors each year and can be adapted for the following academic year. Payment mode, i.e. the number and amount of instalments is specified in a student agreement with the Coordinating University. Additionally, scholarship agreements are made between the Coordinating University and the students who receive an EMJM scholarship and who do not pay the joint fee themselves.
For students who do not succeed in completing the Degree Programme within the foreseen 2 academic years, the same joint fees are in force, but they pay a part of the fee in proportion to the number of credit points still to be taken.

(3) The tuition fees paid by the students, together with the EACEA contribution costs, cover the local educational costs, the local institutional tuition fees, the coordination cost, student insurance costs and the extra costs for organising the programme (including laboratory work, guest lectures and study advice). The projected income has been calculated based on the contribution costs for 70 scholarship students and on the contribution costs together with the joint programme fees for 50 non-scholarship students.
The detailed budget with income and expenditure per cohort for the duration of the grant by EACEA is added as annex V. The draft budget already incorporates the transitional year applicable to cohort 2030-2032. The Board of Directors will approve the budget plan for each academic year.

(4) The Coordinating University pays the partner contributions to both Ghent University and the University of Eastern Finland at the beginning of the first term of each cohort. The partner contributions include the educational costs and local tuition fees, based on the number of credits for which the student is enrolled at each partner university.
a. The University of Groningen receives a partner contribution of €167.000 per cohort.

b. Ghent University receives a partner contribution of €110.000 per cohort (including the costs of a guest lecturer). Should the actual enrolment of a cohort exceed the student numbers projected in the draft budget, Ugent shall be entitled to additional compensation of EUR 900 per 30 ECTS credits undertaken at Ugent by EEA students and EUR 1,400 per 30 ECTS credits undertaken at Ugent by non-EEA students.
c. The University of Eastern Finland receives an educational cost of 15.000 euro.

(5) At least one (1) year before the expiry of the Project Period, the Parties shall prepare a final financial budget, together with a proposal regarding the allocation and utilisation of any surplus budget at the end of the project (31 October 2031). The financial settlement and proposal shall be submitted by the Coordinating University to all Partner Institutions no later than 1 June 2030. The Partner Institutions shall submit it to their respective university governing bodies for formal approval.

No Partner Institution shall acquire any right, title or claim to any surplus budget remaining at the end of, or during, the Project Period. The allocation and use of such funds shall be decided by the above-mentioned financial settlement approved by all Partner Universities.

§5 Study Volume, Standard duration, Academic Year Planning, Mobility Plan, Grading and Certifying Courses

(1) Study volume: the Degree Programme encompasses 120 credit points (ECTS), corresponding to 30 credit points in each term of classes,- which include preparation for internship and thesis- (1st, 2nd and 3rd terms), and 30 ECTS in the final term, in which is reserved for the master thesis. For successful completion of the Degree Programme, the full programme (120 ECTS credit points) needs to be successfully completed. .

(2) Standard duration: the regular study period (the time after which the students normally obtain their final degree) of the Degree programme is 24 months.

(3) Academic Year Planning: Term 1 of the Degree Programme starts on September 1st at UEF and lasts until the first week of February (with a 2-3 week Christmas break). The second term starts on February 15th at Ugent and lasts until the end of July, both terms including the respective examination periods. In August the students have a 2 week break and afterwards they move to UG where formally the 3rd term starts at the 1st of September, but from the 15th of August preparations on the 3rd term will take place. The third term will, with a break for the attendance of the Science of Aphasia Conference, last till the end of November. The last 12 weeks of the third term the Internship is scheduled until the end of February. In the final and fourth term, starting on March 1st , the students will write their Master thesis or combine their master thesis with their internship. In the case of a combination, the students start at the 1st of December of the second year till the 31th of August of the final year at the university where the first master thesis supervisor is employed.

(4) Mobility plan:

Mobility plan for EMCL-25 students

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4*
UG			X	X
Ugent		X		X
UEF	X			X
Associated partners				X

*Students do their internships at one of the partner universities or at one of the associated partners, in term 3 or combine writing their thesis with their internship. Then this will take place in both term 3 and 4. Some of them may then come back to the UG, Ugent, or UEF to write their thesis. All of them write their thesis with a supervisor from U, Ugent, or UEF and a second supervisor from one of the full partners or of the associated partners.

(5) Grading and Certifying Courses: Grade records of all study and test achievements at each partner university are sent to the Coordinating University in the third and the fourth term. All courses of the Degree Programme are graded with examination marks and converted to the UG grading system in accordance with §6. The number of credit points awarded for a course is certified if the student has obtained at least the grade "E = sufficient".

(6) Resits: for each course, at least one resit is allowed per academic year

§6 Grading system

(1) The Joint Grade Record lists the test achievements of the different courses. They are graded according to the following system:
A = excellent
B = very good
C = good
D = satisfactory
E = sufficient

(2) A failed examination (less than E) has to be repeated before the beginning of the next term. If a student does not pass the course even within the resit possibilities of the semester in question, the student will be given the opportunity to retake it in a following semester/academic year (depending on the resit rules of the university concerned) under the supervision of academic staff from the university where the student is then located for the programme. If this proves impossible, the student will be given the opportunity to take the examination in situ at the partner institution concerned.

(3) The conversion of the local grading scales for study and test achievements into the EMCL-25 letter grading system is carried out according to the following table:

EMCL-25 grading system

	Verbal	UG	Ugent	UEF
A	Excellent	9, 10	18–20	5
B	Very good	8	16, 17	4
C	Good	7	14, 15	3
D	Satisfactory	6	12, 13	2
E	Sufficient	5.5	10, 11	1
F	Fail	5-0	0–9	0

§7 Internship

All EMCL-25 students are obliged to do a 15 ECTS internship at one of the full or associated Partners. All information about the internship, including the learning outcomes, formal requirements, procedure, planning, supervision, assessment and assessment criteria and rights and obligations are established in the Internship rules and regulations, see annex II.

§8 Master Thesis Programme

(1) The Master Thesis should demonstrate that the student is able to competently and scientifically deal, within a fixed period of time, with an experimental linguistic, neurolinguistic, psycholinguistic, or clinical linguistic problem which is clearly formulated.

(2) The learning outcomes, formal requirements, procedure, planning schedule, assessment procedure and assessment criteria, as well as rules on archiving and all rights and obligations regarding the Master Thesis are described in the Master Thesis Rules and Regulations, laid down in annex III

(3) In well-founded cases, the topic and accompanying research proposal of the project for the Master Thesis can be changed. Such a change, which is authorized by the Examination Board, can be allowed only once and moreover only within the first 2 months of the operating time. Upon a motivated request from the student (e.g., incapacitation), the Examination Board can, in such a case, extend the time period for a maximum of three months. This motivated request needs to be done no later than 1st of July unless a medical doctor attests medical issues later in time.

§9 Degree Programme completion, decision on the awarding of the degree and of the final grade

(1) To all students who have, upon decision of the Examination Board, successfully completed the Degree Programme (which means that the total amount of 120 ECTS credit points corresponding to the Degree Programme have been obtained), the degrees as convened upon in §10 will be jointly awarded by the full partners.
(2) The Examination Board will also decide on the overall classification (overall weighted mean grade) of each student who passed the Degree Programme, which is expressed according to the following system:

A = excellent
B = very good
C = good
D = satisfactory
E = sufficient

§10 Certification and documents

(1) The joint awarding of the degree and the final grade will be certified by a joint diploma and accompanying diploma supplement following the model developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES, which will be issued by the Coordinating University. It will state that the full partners of the consortium jointly award the student the academic degrees of Master of Arts in Clinical Linguistics (University of Groningen and University of Eastern Finland) and European Master of Science in Clinical Linguistics (Ghent University) upon successful completion of the jointly organized master's programme, and it will also mention the overall classification of the grades awarded to the student by the joint Examination Board, which will decide whether all conditions are fulfilled in order to obtain the degree. In line with the Finnish law, the University of Eastern Finland issues a separate diploma awarding the degree 'Master of Arts in Clinical Linguistics' next to the joint degree issued by the consortium.
(2) The diploma will carry the logos and mention the names of all full partners jointly awarding the diploma, and will be signed by all the Partner Universities. The volume of the programme (120 ECTS credits) will also be mentioned on the diploma. The diploma supplement will be signed by the chair of the Board of Directors and the chair of the Examination Board, and will carry the seal of the issuing university (University of Groningen). The model of the joint diploma and its supplement does not infringe upon the national educational legislation of either partner university.

(3) The coordinating university will also issue a joint grade record signed by the chair of the Board of Directors and the chair of the Examination Board and carrying the seal of the issuing university (University of Groningen).

(4) Students enrolled in cohorts 2025–2027 and thereafter shall be awarded this diploma, as it replaces the diploma issued during the previous project period.

(5) The model of the joint diploma and the joint diploma supplement will be submitted by the coordinating university to the relevant departments of the partner universities for verification in order to ensure that it complies with the provisions set out in this article. If either the University of Eastern Finland or Ghent University should find this not to be the case, the arrangements regarding the joint diploma will be abandoned in favour of a multiple degree system, and either the University of Eastern Finland or Gent University, or both (depending on the acceptability of the diploma model from the perspective of their respective regulatory frameworks), will proceed to the awarding a separate nationally recognized diploma by which the following degrees will be awarded: 'European Master of Science in Clinical Linguistics' by Universiteit Gent and 'Master of Arts in Clinical Linguistics' by the University of Eastern Finland.

(6) The submission of the model of the joint diploma and the joint diploma supplement to the partner universities for verification, which will be decisive for the potential decision to switch to multiple degree awarding, will be done as soon as possible. If the verification of the model should not be possible before 1 November 2026, the switch to multiple degree awarding will take place in any case with respect to student cohort 2025-2027. For the successive student cohorts, 2026-2028 and onwards, the verification of the diploma and its supplement should take place before 1 February 2027 at the latest in order to make joint diploma awarding possible.

(6) **Processing of graduate data and joint diploma records**

The University of Groningen, as the issuing institution of the joint diploma, shall, for each graduation cycle, compile and transmit to all degree-awarding partner institutions a complete dataset for each graduate. This dataset shall include (i) a limited set of personal data—namely first and last name, date of birth, place and country of birth, nationality, personal email address, and a reference to the corresponding joint diploma and joint diploma supplement—and (ii) a digital copy (PDF format) of the joint diploma and its corresponding joint diploma supplement per graduate, as issued, including the signatures of the authorized signatories

UG shall ensure that the collection, processing, and transfer of such personal data and documents are carried out in full compliance with applicable data protection and privacy legislations of the EU. Partner institutions shall process the received data solely for the purpose of institutional record-keeping and archiving of jointly awarded diplomas and shall apply appropriate technical and organizational measures to safeguard the data in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

§11 Quality assurance

Quality assurance is done both internally and externally in compliance with national law.

Internal evaluation

(1) Student feedback:

- Local feedback: teacher/course evaluation (including the quality and value of the lectures taught by the guest lecturers and associated partners) at the full partners using their established system tailored for the integrated nature of the Degree Programme;

- Common feedback (evaluation of the full partners) collected centrally by the consortium using standardized questionnaires; including locally organized services like housing and help with visa, etc.;
- Feedback on internship offered by the associated partners on the quality of supervision of the internship
- Feedback on thesis supervision.

(2) Alumni feedback for employability evaluation and further suggestions for the Degree Programme; this is done via the website and at the Science of Aphasia conference.

(3) Feedback of the associated partners:
- on the quality of the students concerning the courses in which they participated;
- on the quality and the background of the students with regard to the requirements for their internship;
- on the process of supervision of the internships and the theses.

(1) Guest lecturers' feedback

The guest lecturers are invited to give feedback:
- on the application procedure and support of the hosting institute for visa, housing, contract preparation etc.;
- on the quality of the students of the courses they taught;
- on the quality of the facilities at the hosting institute;
- on issues of the Degree Programme as a whole.

(5) Self-evaluation of participating full partners

External evaluation

Systematic external evaluation is provided through permanent peer feedback of one or two colleagues outside the network. They monitor all activities from application procedures, student selection to Degree Programme development, and bring problems to the attention of the Board of Studies. These colleagues will annually speak with the students in a separate meeting.
In addition, the Degree Programme is also subject to continuous quality control according to the full partners' established quality assurance policies, and through evaluation of national / regional bodies. EMCL is preparing for an accreditation based on the framework of the European Approach in 2027.

The feedback that is collected by internal and external evaluation is discussed by the Board of Studies. This body meets twice a year. They report to the Board of Directors and give advice on how the Degree Programme can be improved on the basis of the feedback. The Board of Directors implements the changes accordingly, when feasible and legally possible. This involves not only changes to the Degree Programme, but also improvement of the local facilities and organization.

§12 Socio-cultural assistance of the students

For smooth daily operation and student assistance, there will be the following services:

- A Programme management run by a Local Coordinator with his/her assistant(s). They act as a central contact point for the student.
- Students will be taken on a guided tour of the city at the beginning of each new residence period.
- Each full partner will be in charge of visa issues, accommodation of students and scholars, and other types of assistance and do so free of charge.
- Additional services are provided at each full partner institution or disadvantaged students or scholars or those with special needs.
- Each full partner will open up low-cost sports facilities to ease interaction with other students/scholars.
- Email lists will be created at the beginning of the Degree Programme for networking purposes and news announcements from the Board of Directors and the local coordinators.

§13 Human, financial and other types of support provided by the full partners

The teachers and local directors appointed are all high-level academics with international teaching and research experience. Extra money is provided by the full partners to hire assistants for Local Coordinators in support of local implementation of the Degree Programme. In order for the Degree Programme to be self-supportive, each full partner allows its administration and infrastructure to be used without expenses. At the coordinating University, the financial officer is allowed to dedicate a portion of his time to the financial management of the consortium scholarships.

§14 Course promotion measures and awareness raising activities

The Coordinating University is responsible for the promotion. A webpage is maintained that contains all relevant information about the Degree programme, the Universities, the associated partners, the courses offered, possible thesis topics, the internship projects and the application procedure, including a downloadable application form, and a link to the alumni site of the programme. Furthermore, the promotion will be made through:

- Maintaining Social Media;
- International news sites, mailing lists and platforms of relevant professional bodies (e.g., Science of Aphasia, the Academy of Aphasia, LinguistList, CUNYList);
- Flyers that will be spread on the international conferences that the directors and teachers of the EMCL-25 attend;
- Portals of the universities and national agencies where students look for grants.

§15 Open Access Policy

All master theses are public and they shall be published online (the theses must be prepared in such a way that they can be published and that they can be available in public) through the library of the University of Groningen. EMCL-25 students and graduates are encouraged to publish

in open access journals, proceedings etc. Data collected for master theses' projects will be made sustainably available according to the national laws. A MOOC developed by the consortium is freely accessible via *futurelearn.com*.

§16 Logos

The logo of EMCL-25 and Erasmus+ will be used on all materials that refer to EMCL-25, including the announcement and description of the Degree Programme on the universities' website.

For the duration of this Consortium Agreement and only for carrying out the obligations as mentioned in this Consortium Agreement the Universities are entitled to print the logos of the participating universities on the EMCL-25 diplomas to be awarded.

§17 Guest lecturers

The EMCL-25 consortium aims at recruiting at least 4 guest lecturers per cohort. Promotion activities to recruit guest lecturers are part of the activities mentioned in §14. Guest lecturers are invited or can apply for a minimum duration of one week and a grant of €1,950/week. They apply through the EMCL-25 website, application materials are provided and managed by Ghent University. Selection of candidates is done during a regular consortium meeting or via online meetings, if needed. The Coordinating University manages financial aspects.

§18 Interaction with non-educational actors

The full partners actively interact with the associated partners that come from (a) related academic fields (n=19); (b) the R&D (neurotechnological) sector (n=9) and (c) the clinical sector (n=8). These are all potential employers, they will be involved in teaching and provide internships for EMCL-25-students and agreed to co-supervise their thesis projects when they are involved. These Associate Partners will participate in the *Meet the Employer Event* in the second term. They will either come to Ghent University or are available through an internet connection and present a virtual lab visit. Excursions will be organized to the companies and rehabilitation centres in the vicinity of Ghent, Groningen, and Joensuu. The associated partners will be available at least half a day each to present themselves and to discuss possible research projects with the students.

§ 19. Ownership of Intellectual Property

The ownership of the Intellectual Property shall rest with the University in whose activities the Intellectual Property was created, invented or generated. Intellectual property means knowhow, patents, inventions, methods, solutions, devices, substances, education material and software, technical reports and documents in which the information is described, regardless of the form or medium in which it is disclosed or stored and irrespective of whether it is or can be protected by intellectual property rights.

The ownership of jointly generated Intellectual Property shall rest with the Universities generating the Intellectual Property jointly, in the proportion of their contribution to creating such Intellectual Property. The joint owning Universities shall agree separately on detailed

conditions for the exploitation of their jointly owned Intellectual Property. Should the joint owners fail to reach an agreement as regards their jointly owned Intellectual Property, each joint owner shall be entitled to use the jointly owned Intellectual Property independently as it sees fit.

The establishment of Intellectual Property Rights relating to course contents will remain with the University responsible for delivery of that course. Where existing copyright material is used, this must be acknowledged. Delivering Universities shall be responsible for obtaining the necessary third party authorization. In case a student generates Intellectual Property, ownership of the Intellectual Property shall be subject to the rules of the University where the student was registered at the time the Intellectual Property was created.

The Universities not owning the Intellectual Property shall have a royalty-free User Right for Research Purposes to Intellectual property generated by the other Universities, excluding patentable inventions and software. User Right for Research Purposes refers to a non-exclusive right to use the Intellectual Property in internal research and development purposes of the University as well as in teaching or for scientific research purposes. User Right for Research Purposes does not include a right to sub-license the Intellectual Property or otherwise assign the Intellectual Property or a part thereof to third parties, nor a right to sell services conducted by using the Intellectual Property or a right to otherwise commercially exploit the Intellectual Property.

§ 19.1 Ownership of Background

Background means all information owned by a University or otherwise in its possession, generated outside the Degree Programme, including but not limited to knowhow, ideas, patents, inventions, methods, solutions, devices, substances and software, technical reports and documents in which the information is described, regardless of the form or medium in which it is disclosed or stored and irrespective of whether it is or can be protected by intellectual property rights.

The necessity of the Background for the Degree Programme, submitting the Background and the conditions thereof shall be in the sole discretion of the University owning the Background or having the Background otherwise in its possession. The Parties are not obliged to submit any Background to be used by the other Universities in the Degree Programme, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

The Universities are allowed to use the Background submitted by the other Universities for the purpose of carrying out the tasks defined in this Agreement. The University receiving the submitting University’s Background shall not be entitled to assign the Background further to a third party. If the Background is needed in order to exploit the Intellectual Property of the Degree Programme in further research and development or in business activities, the conditions of such use shall be agreed separately in writing between the Universities in question.

The University shall return the Background received from the other University only, if so separately agreed in writing between the Universities.

§ 20 Confidentiality

The Universities shall each individually confirm that strict confidentiality will be observed in all communications relating to portable or potentially commercially valuable intellectual property created within the Degree Programme.

Confidential Information means either oral or written information concerning technical, financial, commercial or other matters which is clearly marked as confidential prior to its disclosure or otherwise obviously of confidential nature due to the nature of the information or the circumstance in which it was disclosed.

The Universities undertake not to disclose the other University's Confidential Information disclosed to the receiving University by the disclosing University or which is otherwise in the receiving University's possession, to third parties, and to obey due diligence in order to safeguard the confidentiality of the said information.

The Universities are not entitled to use Confidential Information for other purposes than for fulfilling their obligations according to this Agreement.

The confidentiality obligations shall not apply to information, which the receiving University is able to demonstrate to be:

(a) public or which later becomes part of the public domain through no fault or negligence of the receiving University or its personnel, or through no breach on this Agreement or applicable legislation;
(b) already in the receiving University's possession at the time of disclosure through no fault or negligence of the receiving University;
(c) received from a third party without any confidentiality obligations;
(d) independently developed by the receiving University without using any Confidential Information of the disclosing University; or
(e) required to be disclosed by law, decree, governmental order or similar.

The Universities shall apply the confidentiality obligations set out herein during the term of this Agreement and five (5) years thereafter.

Intellectual Property is, in principle, public information. Each University has the right to publish the Intellectual Property it has generated

Confidential Information shall not be disclosed when publishing Intellectual Property. The Universities are entitled to review the intended publications prior to publishing. The material which is intended to be published shall be delivered to the Universities for approval in writing (including e-mail). Restricting the publication shall be claimed no later than within thirty (30) days as of receiving the material intended to be published. Restricting the publication may only be claimed on well-founded grounds, which may either be the protection of confidential Information or protecting intellectual property rights included in the intended publication. Should this be the case, the Universities shall negotiate amending the publication and avoid the situation, where the whole publication would be banned. If the Universities have not expressed their well-founded and specified claim to restrict the publication within the said time limit, the publication shall be considered permitted.

§ 21 Liability

The Universities shall carry out the work related to the Degree Programme using reasonable skill, care and diligence as well as professional personnel. The Universities shall not, however, be held liable for the content of the Intellectual Property. Additionally, the University using the Intellectual Property shall be exclusively liable for the use it puts such Intellectual Property, including the intellectual property rights relating thereto.

The Universities shall be liable towards each other for damage caused by a breach of contract. The liability of either University arising in any way out of the subject matter of this Agreement shall not extend to any indirect or consequential loss or damage. The liability of a University shall in all cases be limited to the share of financing of the University in breach in accordance with this Agreement. The limitations of liability set out herein shall not apply if the damage is caused by a willful act or gross negligence.

Each University shall be solely liable for any loss, destruction, damage, death or injury to the persons or property of the University in question or of the University's employees or third parties resulting directly or indirectly from performance of the Degree Programme activities by the University in question under the present Agreement.

The Universities shall not be liable for damage caused by any delay or failure in the performance of the other Universities. The Universities shall not be liable for damage caused by any delay or failure due to force majeure.

All claims against a University shall be made no later than one (1) year as of the date the damage incurred or the date the aggrieved University is aware of the damage. All claims for damages shall, however, be made no later than one (1) year as of the termination of this Agreement.

In the event of any controversy, claim or dispute arising out of or relating to any provision of this Agreement, the Universities shall try to settle those conflicts amicably between themselves within ninety (90) days as of either University's request for amicable settlement negotiations. Should the Universities fail to settle then, the matter in dispute shall be finally and exclusively settled by binding arbitration according to the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") with the composition of one arbitrator. The arbitral proceedings shall take place in Brussels in the English language.

§22 Human Rights

The parties ensure that they shall respect human rights.

§23 Clause concerning the joint processing of personal data - student exchange (GDPR)

The Parties agree that they will act as Joint Controllers for the processing of Personal Data in the context of the implementation of the underlying agreement. The Parties therefore wish to define their rights and obligations with regard to the protection of personal data as

established in the European General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (hereinafter the “GDPR”) of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46 / EC, as well as in the Act of 30 July 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (hereinafter the “Personal Data Processing Act”);

The terms below are used in the meaning as defined in the GDPR and the Personal Data Processing Act.

1. The Parties will process the following Personal Data in the context of the implementation of the underlying agreement:

(a) Personal data shared in the context of enrolment at all partner institutions:

name - first name - sex - national number - date of birth - place of birth - country of birth - nationality - e-mail home institution - correspondence address (private) - mobile number - training - course units and curriculum components - passport photo

(b) Personal data shared in the context of the admission and selection procedure:

title - civil status - skype id - proof of residence - motivation for the application for enrolment - motivated application for scholarships - curriculum vitae - letters of recommendation or contact data reference persons - language certificate - scan or copy of identity document - application form coordinating institution- copies of diploma documents and certificates concerning previous studies (with an eye to admission to the study programme)- transcripts of records

(c) Personal data pertaining to the curriculum and study results, shared in the context of the joint organisation of the master’s programme and of the awarding of the joint degree

course units - transcript of records - assessment reports master's dissertation - proof of obtaining a diploma

(d) Personal Data required for ad hoc trouble solving on demand of the student

Exchange of information on residence and insurance documents in the context of problem-solving

The personal data processed by the Parties include the following categories of data subjects: Students.

2. The Parties undertake to communicate with the Data Subjects in a transparent manner on how they can exercise the rights that are granted to them under the GDPR.

The Parties will provide the Data Subjects with the information set out in Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR by including it in their privacy statement , which will be made explicit as follows:

The University of Groningen (coordinating university) will publish the provisions referred to in this article on its webpage concerning privacy statement, which is published on the following URL: https://www.rug.nl/info/privacy#:~:text=Privacyverklaring,zij%20doet%20met%20uw%20persoonsgegevens.

Ghent University will publish the provisions referred to in this article on its webpage concerning the Ghent University privacy statement, which is published on the following URL: https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/inschrijven/privacy, and which is referred to in the Student Agreement, which is signed by students upon enrolment at Ghent University.

The University of Eastern Finland will publish the provisions referred to in this article on its website concerning privacy statement, which is published on the following URL: https://www.uef.fi/en/processing-of-personal-data.

3. The Parties undertake to respect the confidentiality obligation when processing personal data and to provide each other with the required assistance that is necessary and / or may reasonably be expected to enable them to meet their obligations under the GDPR.

4. In the event that a Data Subject makes any request regarding his or her personal data to a Party, the responsibility for the execution of such a request lies with the Party receiving the request. The other Party shall assist them in this.

5. If the personal data is processed and / or stored outside of the European Economic Area or by an international organisation, and insofar as no adequacy decision applies, the Parties must additionally sign the standard clauses drawn up by the European Commission. The processing and storage will always take place in accordance with the GDPR as well as, where applicable, the national legislation of the country where the data is being processed / stored, if that would also apply.

6. The Parties shall ensure that appropriate technical and organisational measures are taken to protect the personal data against loss or any form of unlawful processing. The measures to be taken are in line with the available technology.
In the event that there is an infringement with regard to personal data, the Party who committed the infringement will be responsible for the communication (if any) to the Data Subject and, if applicable, to the supervisory authority. The Party will also notify the other Party in writing without unreasonable delay. The Party who committed the infringement is obliged to immediately take the appropriate measures at its own expense to stop the infringement and to limit any adverse consequences of the infringement.

7. If a Data Subject or a third party believes to have suffered damage as a result of (unlawful) processing of personal data or failure to fulfil an obligation, the Party responsible for processing or complying with the obligation will fully indemnify the other Party for this in accordance with the liability rules as established in the GDPR.
If the supervisory authority imposes a fine as a result of an unlawful or negligent act of one Party, it will be obliged to indemnify the other Party in case they have also been imposed with a fine.

8. Mr Jan-Willem Oordt (j.w.oordt@rug.nl) (privacy officer and security coordinator) acts as contact persons on behalf of the University of Groningen within the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs Marisa Montero Perez (mailto:marisa.monteroperez@ugent.be) acts as a contact person on behalf of Ghent University within the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs Hanne Elsen (hanne.elsen@ugent.be) acts as data protection officer on behalf of GHENT UNIVERSITY in the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs. Helena Eronen (helena.eronen@uef.fi) or Mr. Tuomas Sällinen (tuomas.sallinen@uef.fi) act as contact persons on behalf of the University of Eastern Finland within the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

Mrs Helena Eronen (helena.eronen@uef.fi) acts as data protection officer on behalf of the University of Eastern Finland in the context of this Data Processing Agreement.

§24 Applications of Laws

The institutions agree that every person connected with the Degree Programme in relation to the mutual undertakings with each other shall abide by, conform to, and comply with all of the laws of Finland, Belgium, and the Netherlands or other relevant jurisdictions as well as the statutes, regulations and disciplinary rules promulgated by each Institution. Each Institution shall provide Degree Programme participants with a copy of its statutes, regulations and disciplinary rules.The disputes arising on the interpretation of this agreement shall be solved according to Belgian law.

§25 Validation

All partners should sign on separate papers with paper heading.

This agreement shall come into force as of August 31, 2026, referred to by all the partners,

for a duration of six academic years continuing until the graduation of the last student belonging to the cohort 2030-2032. The agreement applies to the non-funded cohort 2025-2027 for the year 2026-2027, the funded cohorts covered by the subsidized project 2026-2028, 2027-2029, 2028-2030 and 2029-2031, as well as the transitional non-funded cohort 2030-2032. Following the end of the project period, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect with respect to the non-funded cohort 2030-2032 throughout a transition year.
Students who started with the Degree Programme will be assured to be able to finish their studies as long as they finish within 8 terms (double regular study period) from the onset of their first registration. This agreement will remain in effect until a six-month advance notification of termination by either party. Changes and supplements always need written approval by all full partners and are considered inseparable components of this agreement.

Each of the parties may terminate this agreement with immediate effect if the other party is involved in a serious violation of human rights.

§26 Signatures

This Agreement is made and signed in three similar copies, one for each University. The Universities warrant that the persons undersigning this Agreement are authorised to sign for the organization they represent.

---------- (signature)

Prof. Dr. Jouke de Vries (University of Groningen)

---------- (signature)

Prof dr. Petra de Sutter, Ghent University)

---------- (signature)

Prof. Janne Pietarinen, PhD (University of Eastern Finland)

List of Annexes

Annex I: Copy of Scholarship and Student agreement
Annex II: Internship Rules and Regulations
Annex III: Thesis Rules and Regulations
Annex IV: Description of the degree programme
Annex V: Detailed Budget proposal