



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

Between Greenland Research Council (“GRC”) and Rannís – The Icelandic Centre for Research (“Rannís”)

hereinafter also referred as the “parties” and individually the “party”.

### **Preamble**

The Greenland Research Council and Rannís – The Icelandic Centre for Research, seek to strengthen cooperation between the scientific and educational communities in Greenland and Iceland. Both organizations function as national funding and policy advising agencies and play important roles in promoting bilateral cooperation in the areas of research, innovation and education.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to outline how GRC and Rannís will work together to realize shared objectives. The working relationship is agreed upon according to the terms and conditions set out in the articles following in this Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Background**

There has been a great increase in bilateral relations between Iceland and Greenland, both political and economic, in recent years. This is reflected in the Icelandic Government’s decision to establish a diplomatic mission in Nuuk in 2013, and the decision of the Greenland authorities to establish a diplomatic mission in Reykjavik in late 2018.

There is a growing economic connection between the two countries. The countries already have great mutual interests, including in the fields of fisheries, air services, air traffic control, tourism and matters pertaining to the Arctic region.

In December 2020 the Greenland Committee, appointed by the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, released the report “Greenland and Iceland in the New Arctic”. The report provides a detailed analysis of the current state of bilateral relations between the two countries and includes 100 recommendations for increased co-operation in various areas. Following the proposals put forth by the report, the Icelandic Parliament, Althingi, approved a parliamentary resolution on increased co-operation between Greenland and Iceland in May 2021.

In September 2021, the Greenland and Iceland foreign ministers signed a Joint Declaration on increased co-operation between the two countries. Furthermore, the two ministers for foreign affairs decided to initiate a joint feasibility study to identify areas of deeper cooperation.



## **1. Scope**

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

- Identify synergies between Greenland and Iceland research, innovation, education, facilities and training activities;
- Create opportunities for future joint or allied funding of activities and projects that promote bilateral and international scientific and educational collaboration. This can include 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 practices in administrative and organizational tasks (e.g., strategic planning for organizational development, investment impact assessment, policy development); and
- Promote other scientific and organizational cooperation as mutually agreed, working together with other organizations and stakeholders where appropriate.

## **2. The Working Relationship**

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

It is understood that the implementation of any of the types of collaborative activities stated in article 1 is based on a best efforts basis, and depend upon the availability of resources and financial support of the parties concerned which may include the outcome of joint funding efforts.

## **3. Management of the Partnership**

The partnership will be managed through a steering board consisting of Josephine Nymand (Chair, GRC), Maliina Jensen (Secretary, GRC), Hallgrímur Jónasson (General Director, Rannís), Ágúst Hjörtur Ingþórsson (Head of Research and Innovation Division; Deputy Director, Rannís), and Egill Thor Níelsson (Senior Advisor, Rannís), with a small number of additional representatives, selected as appropriate, to develop and implement the collaborative activities proposed in article 1. The steering board also review and select new activities based on the alignment of strategies and objectives, and levels of engagement and commitment between the parties.



#### 4. Interpretation

The right of interpretation for this MoU belongs to the Greenland Research Council and Rannís – The Iceland Centre for Research based on the agreement of the two parties.

#### 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 authorized 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 it wishes the MoU to continue and, if so, 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 notice to the other in writing.

#### 6. Confidentiality

The parties may disclose certain confidential information to the other in relation to this MoU and future proposals. Each party therefore agrees to maintain confidentiality of all such confidential information, and without obtaining the written consent of the other party, it shall not disclose any relevant confidential information to any third parties except where such disclosure is required.

Signed for and on behalf of  
the Greenland Research Council:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Nymand".

Josephine Nymand  
Chair

Signed for and on behalf of  
Rannís:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hallgrímur Jónasson".

Hallgrímur Jónasson  
General Director

Date: 7/2 2022

Date: 8.02.2022