
Memorandum of understanding between the European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability and the International Fund for Agricultural Development

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Useful references: IFAD Partnership Strategy ([EB 2012/106/R.4](#))

Action: The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of this document.

Technical questions:

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Memorandum of understanding between the European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability and the International Fund for Agricultural Development

I. Background and purpose of the memorandum of understanding

1. The European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability (EIIS) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have been collaborating in several areas since 2022.
2. In accordance with the objectives of the IFAD Partnership Framework,¹ the areas of current and future collaboration opportunities with EIIS are as follows:
 - (i) **Capacity-building, knowledge generation and innovation.**
 - (a) **EIIS Food and Sustainability Certificate Programme, of which IFAD is the programme director and technical lead.** IFAD staff lecture on themes related to innovation for impact, frontier technologies for sustainable and inclusive rural development, evaluation of development investments and human-centred design, in collaboration with experts from the other United Nations Rome-based agencies and international financial institutions. In turn, to date EIIS has offered eight full scholarships to beneficiaries of IFAD operations in List C countries.
 - (b) **Collaboration on activities to foster and support organizational capacity-building and skills development.** To date, nine IFAD staff have engaged in [EIIS Innovation Laboratories](#), which develop strategies that support sustainable business practices through artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. Further collaboration is anticipated with leading global experts from diverse industries to generate knowledge, guidelines and tools for IFAD and programme participants to promote the design and implementation of sustainable innovation.
 - (c) **Knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices.** IFAD has been allocated a free booth (of which the nominal cost is approximately EUR 30,000) at the 2023 and 2024 European Innovation Council Summit. EIIS continues to be a highly engaged partner that routinely provides speakers and representatives to IFAD events and offers free training spaces and resources to IFAD throughout the year.
 - (ii) **Strengthening private sector engagement.** EIIS continues to facilitate connections for IFAD with leaders of strategic private sector entities.
 - (iii) **Enhancing visibility.** EIIS continues to contribute to enhancing visibility of IFAD's work by organizing and connecting IFAD as a key institutional partner, by providing media exposure and platforms that broaden IFAD's network and outreach.
3. As a result of this memorandum of understanding, additional avenues for engagement will be sought including, but not limited to, the development of an IFAD-EIIS fellowship programme on innovation, as well as staff and intern loans of graduates from EIIS to support IFAD's operations.

¹ [EB 2019/127/R.4](#).

4. As such, the purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to establish a mutually beneficial non-exclusive framework for continued cooperation between the parties, with a view to enhance collaboration in common areas of interest.

II. Alignment with IFAD strategies

5. The principles and the objectives of this memorandum of understanding are aligned with the principles and objectives set forth in the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, the IFAD Partnership Framework, and the IFAD Private Sector Engagement Strategy 2019-2024.

III. Recommendation

6. In accordance with article 8, section 2, of the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Executive Board is invited to authorize the President to negotiate and finalize a memorandum of understanding between IFAD and EIIS.
7. The signed memorandum of understanding will be submitted to the Executive Board for information at a subsequent session.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

And the

**NEXT GENERATION INSTITUTE SRL
(EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY)**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter the "Memorandum") is entered into by and between the Next Generation Institute SRL European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability (EIIS) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), hereinafter separately referred to as a "Party" and jointly referred to as "the Parties".

WHEREAS EIIS is an academic company, designing innovative solutions for companies, academia and institutions to facilitate and foster innovation for sustainability.

WHEREAS IFAD is a specialized agency of the United Nations and an international financial institution established by an international agreement (i.e. the Agreement Establishing IFAD) with the objective of mobilizing additional resources to be made available on concessional terms for agricultural development in developing Member States. In fulfilling this objective, IFAD provides financing primarily for projects and programmes specifically designed to introduce, expand or improve food production systems and to strengthen related policies and institutions within the framework of national priorities and strategies.

THE PARTIES:

CONSIDERING that IFAD's mandate is to invest in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security and escape poverty by taking charge of their own development, expanding their businesses and livelihoods, and building their resilience;

CONSIDERING that EIIS considers itself to be the go-to partner for organizations looking to expand their knowledge on innovation for sustainability;

CONSIDERING the common interest of the Parties in promoting, according to their respective mandates, agricultural development and food security in developing countries;

RECOGNIZING the benefits of cooperation between them, as may be consistent with their respective policies and rules, for achieving their shared objectives;

DETERMINED to establish a strategic and operational cooperation to best serve their common objectives; and

RECOGNIZING and building on the foundation of the Letter of Intent between the Parties dated 12 December 2022;

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish a mutually beneficial non-exclusive framework for cooperation between the Parties, with a view to facilitating collaboration in common areas of interest in which both Parties are active.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

2. In accordance with their respective mandates, policies and rules, the Parties will seek opportunities for collaboration in a number of areas, including, but not limited to:

- (a) IFAD staff lecturing at academic initiatives on themes related to innovation, sustainability and rural development.

- (b) Collaboration in activities that aim to foster and support organizational capacity-building and/or skills development on innovation, rural development and sustainability. For example: innovation labs, workshops, training, tools and guidelines, innovative approaches and methodologies, internships and staff loans.
- (c) Sharing of good practices and knowledge on innovation-related areas through events, international forums, products and platforms.
- (d) EIIS will facilitate connections with entities and private sector companies that can contribute to the achievement of IFAD's mission and to scale up innovative solutions.
- (e) Contribute to enhanced visibility of IFAD's work. This partnership will facilitate opportunities for cofinancing arrangements with the private sector, other donors and international financial institutions to raise IFAD's visibility and enhance the value it adds to the work of others.

III. CONSULTATION

3. The Parties will keep each other informed and, whenever necessary, consult each other on matters of mutual interest which, in their opinion, are likely to enhance their collaboration.

IV. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

4.1. The Parties hereto will exchange relevant information and data on matters of common interest to them and collaborate in the collection, analysis and diffusion of such information and data, subject to their respective policies and procedures relating to disclosure of information.

4.2. The Parties may disclose to the general public this Memorandum and information related to this Memorandum in accordance with their respective policies. However, the Parties agree that all documents or information exchanged between the Parties in the course of the implementation of this Memorandum will not be disclosed to third parties by the Party receiving such documents or information without the prior written consent of the other Party.

V. USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM, FORM OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

5.1. Neither Party shall use the name or emblem of the other Party, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or for public dissemination without the prior expressly written approval of the other Party in each case.

5.2. The Parties will first consult with each other concerning the manner and form of any publicity or acknowledgement of the other Party's support regarding any activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum.

VI. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

6. The Parties will agree in writing on the ownership of any intellectual property rights that may arise in any work or product which may result from the collaborative activities undertaken under this Memorandum.

VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

7.1. This Memorandum reflects the views and intentions of the Parties to cooperate on a non-exclusive basis, expressed in good faith, but without the creation of any binding obligation or the incurrance of any liability on the part of any of them.

7.2. It is understood and agreed that nothing in this Memorandum: (a) will constitute, or be construed as an offer, promise or undertaking by the Parties to finance all or in part any activity identified in or pursuant to this Memorandum; (b) shall be construed to create a joint venture, partnership, agency relationship, employment relationship, or any other relationship that may result in vicarious liability between or among the Parties; (c) shall be construed to create any commitment on the part of any Party to give preferred treatment to the other Party in any matter contemplated under this Memorandum.

7.3. Any activity that may be identified by the Parties under this Memorandum will, as appropriate, be subject to separate supplementary arrangements or agreements to be concluded between the Parties on a case-by-case basis which will detail the specific form and content of the activities, address the obligations and liabilities of each Party in relation to those activities and the terms and conditions applicable thereto.

7.4. Any dispute arising out of, or in connection with, the interpretation or application of any provision of this Memorandum will be settled amicably through consultations between the Parties.

7.5. Nothing in this Memorandum, or relating thereto, shall be construed as constituting a waiver, renunciation or other modification of any of the rights, privileges, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by IFAD under the Agreement Establishing IFAD, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, and under any other document, international treaty or convention, or international customary law.

VIII. COMMUNICATION/CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

8.1. Each Party will designate an official (hereinafter referred to as "Official") who will be responsible for conducting relations under this Memorandum on its behalf. For the said purpose and until further notice, EIIS will be represented by Andrea Geremicca and Sveva Ciapparoni. Until further notice, IFAD designates Gladys H. Morales as its Official for the above-mentioned purpose.

8.2. For the implementation of this Memorandum, the Parties agree that any notice or other communication to be given or made will be addressed and sent to the attention of the Officials at the addresses below or such other address as either Party designates by notice to the other Party:

For IFAD:

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International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via Paolo di Dono 44, 00142 Rome, Italy

For EIIS:

Andrea Geremicca
Director General
E-mail: andrea@eiis.it

Sveva Ciapparoni
Project Manager
E-mail: sveva.ciapparoni@eiis.it
Palazzo Taverna
Via Monte Giordano 36, 00186 Rome, Italy

IX. EFFECTIVENESS, DURATION, TERMINATION AND AMENDMENT

9.1. This Memorandum shall become effective upon signature thereof by the Parties, following the approval by the IFAD Executive Board.

9.2. The Memorandum shall not be time bound and shall be in existence for an unlimited duration.

9.3. Either Party may terminate the Memorandum by giving at least ninety (90) days’ advance written notice to the other Party. Any termination of this Memorandum shall be without prejudice to the orderly completion of any ongoing cooperation activity and any other rights or obligations of the Parties under any legal instrument executed pursuant to this Memorandum.

9.4. The Parties to this Memorandum shall consult each other on any amendment required regarding the terms of this Memorandum. Any such amendment shall be made in writing and shall become effective after signature by both Parties.

9.5. This Memorandum supersedes the Letter of Intent signed between IFAD and EIIS on 12 December 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, acting through their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Memorandum in duplicate in the English language.

**NEXT GENERATION INSTITUTE SRL
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF
INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

By: _____

By: _____

Name: Andrea Geremicca

Name: Alvaro Lario

Title: Director General

Title: President

Date: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Place: _____

By: _____

Name: Marco Geremicca

Title: Legal Representative

Date: _____

Place: _____