



## Standard Terms for HUM-SOC (FIK) (the 'Standard Terms')

These Standard Terms shall be applicable for public non-commercial research projects (FIK) conducted in collaboration between departments at AAU under the Faculty of Humanities (HUM) and the Faculty of Social Sciences (SOC) and two or more external parties.

### 1. Basis for the agreement

1.1 The content of the Research Project, the timetable and the economic terms shall be determined in a written agreement (the 'Collaborative Agreement') with accessory appendices.

1.2 In the event that the Research Project is based on a grant issued by a Third Party, and the grant conditions are mandatory for such a grant, these grant conditions shall be regarded as part of the contractual basis and take precedence over the Standard Terms.

### 2. Definitions

'Act on Copyright' shall mean Danish Act No. 202 of 27 February 2010 on copyright, including later amendments.

'Agreement' shall mean the Collaborative Agreement with accessory appendices, including the Standard Terms read as one agreement.

'Background Information' shall mean technology, know-how, materials and information, including inventions, improvements, discoveries, Software, etc., whether patentable, registerable or protected by copyright or not, that are generated or controlled by the Parties before the beginning of the Research Project.

'Budget' shall mean the budget which is described in section 3 of the Collaborative Agreement.

'Collaborative Agreement' shall mean the collaborative agreement signed by the Parties.

'Companies' shall mean the companies identified in the introduction of the Collaborative Agreement.

'Confidential Information' shall mean information disclosed between the Parties as part of the Research Project and is clearly marked 'confidential', or if disclosed orally, is written down by the Controlling Party, marked 'confidential' and sent to the receiving Party within fourteen (14) days after the time of disclosure, together with information that is obviously of a confidential nature.

'Controlling Party' shall mean the Party that owns or controls the Confidential Information.

'Foreground Information' shall mean technology, know-how, materials and information, including inventions, improvements, discoveries, Software, etc., whether patentable, registerable or protected by copyright or not, that are generated as part of the Research Project.

'Institutions' shall mean the institutions identified in the introduction of the Collaborative Agreement, primarily engaged in non-commercial activities in the form of research and education. Each Institution is represented by the department, the research group and the persons participating in the Research Project on behalf of the Institutions cf. the Collaborative Agreement.

'Party and Parties' shall mean the Institutions and the Companies individually and collectively.

'Purpose' shall mean the purpose that is described in section 2.1 of the Collaborative Agreement.

'Research Project' shall mean the project that is described in section 2.2 of the Collaborative Agreement.

'Software' shall mean sequences of instructions to carry out a process in, or convertible into, a form executable by a computer and fixed in any tangible medium of expression, and which enjoys copyright protection in accordance with the Act on Copyright.

'Third Party' shall mean all legal and natural persons, except for the Parties. Third Party comprises e.g. authorities or companies that are affiliated with the Companies.

### 3. Performance of the Research Project

3.1 The Research Project shall be performed in accordance with the Purpose. The Parties are obligated to promote the Research Project diligently. The Research Project, including the activities and the distribution thereof, the time schedule and the Budget cannot be changed without prior explicit written agreement between the Parties.

3.2 During the term of the Research Project, the Parties grant each other free access to use their respective Foreground Information for the purpose of completing the Project. The same applies to relevant Background Information to the extent that the Parties are at liberty to grant access rights to Background Information.

3.3 Each Party shall be responsible for ensuring that its performance of activities hereunder is in compliance with any local laws and regulations.

### 4. Budget, expenses, payments and financial reporting

4.1 Each Party covers the expenses that such Party may incur beyond the limits set in the Budget.

4.2 Payment of the financial contribution, including payments in accordance with the Budget, shall be made pursuant to invoice thirty (30) days after demand, unless the due date has already been set. Late payment is subject to default interest in accordance with the Danish Interest Rate Act (Act no. 459 of 13/05/2014 or later amended consolidation acts).

4.3 The Parties are responsible for paying VAT, if their payment of financial contribution is subject to VAT.

4.4 In the event that the Research Project is based on a grant from a Third Party as referred to in section 1.2 of the Standard Terms, and it is stipulated in the grant conditions that financial reporting shall be submitted to the Third Party, such financial reporting shall be submitted in accordance with the guidelines below, unless otherwise is set forth in the grant conditions:

4.4.1 Each Party shall draw up accounts based on the expenses such Party has incurred in the Research Project and in accordance with the grant conditions. In the event that a Party is a public authority or institution that is subject to the Danish National Financial Guidelines, the Party's accounts shall be signed by the Party's head of the accounting division. In the event that a Party is not subject to the Danish National Financial Guidelines, the accounts shall be accompanied with an auditor's statement from a state authorised public accountant.

### 5. Specifically on PhD students

5.1 In the event that the Research Project involves a PhD student, the Research Project shall be performed in accordance with the legislation on PhD studies applicable in the country where the PhD student is enrolled. If the PhD student is enrolled at a Danish university the relevant legislation is the Danish Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions in force at the time in question (Ministerial Order No. 1039 of 27 August 2013 or later amended consolidation acts).

5.2 Enrolment of a PhD-student at a Danish university is subject to the condition that the candidate is found to have the required educational and academic qualifications, and that a pre-approval of the candidate has been issued by the PhD school.



## 6. Publication

6.1 The Parties shall enjoy the unrestricted right to publish their own Foreground Information for example in scientific works and journals and pursuant to the traditions of the area of research in question. Publication of another Party's Foreground Information requires such Party's consent. Foreground Information jointly owned by two or more Parties can be published individually by any of such Parties notwithstanding that the other Parties may not wish to participate in the publication.

6.2 The Parties may agree on a code of practice for publications in the Collaborative Agreement.

6.3 In the event that the Agreement involves PhD students enrolled at a Danish university the Companies agree and fully accept that each PhD student is subject to an obligation to disseminate with regards to Foreground Information, and that the PhD thesis shall be subject to a public defence, cf. the Danish Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities and Certain Higher Artistic Educational Institutions.

## 7. Publicity in relation to the Research Project

7.1 To the extent that the Institutions are obliged to publish information about the private financial contribution to the Institutions' research the Companies accept that the required information is published in accordance with the relevant legal framework.

7.2 A Party may not without the prior written consent of the other Parties either directly or indirectly refer to the other Parties or employees of the other Parties in connection with any marketing activities, or generally exploit the name of the other Parties.

## 8. Confidentiality

8.1 Confidential Information shall be kept confidential by the receiving Party, and may not be disclosed to any Third Party without the prior written consent of the Controlling Party. Each Party shall endeavour to keep to a minimum the amount of information that is disclosed to the other Parties upon which restrictions are imposed.

8.2 Confidential Information does not comprise information, that:

- at the time of receipt was published or in any other way made available to the public,
- after the time of receipt has been published or made available to the public other than by neglect of this obligation of confidentiality,
- already at the time of receipt was in the rightful possession of the receiving Party without any restrictions,
- rightfully has been disclosed by a Third Party, or
- is generated by the receiving Party independently of the Research Project.

8.3 This obligation of confidentiality shall cease no later than three (3) years from the time of receipt.

8.4 The Parties fully accept that Confidential Information may be disclosed to a granting Third Party to the extent necessary. In addition, the Agreement does not prevent the receiving Party from disclosing Confidential Information to the extent that the receiving Party is required to do so according to statute, judicial order or binding legislation act. Confidential Information covered by this section 8.4 shall still be considered Confidential Information to the extent that it does not become public as a result hereof. The receiving Party shall as soon as possible notify the Controlling Party of disclosure in accordance with this section to enable the Controlling Party to protect its interest to the maximum feasible extent.

## 9. Rights and title to Background Information

9.1 All rights and title to Background Information shall remain with the Party that owns or controls such Background Information at the time of entering into this Agreement.

9.2 Background Information shall be made available for the performance of the Research Project on a free of charge, non-exclusive basis. In the event the Companies are willing to

make Background Information available for utilisation by the Institutions in other research projects, this shall appear specifically in the Collaborative Agreement..

9.3 To the extent that Background Information is considered Confidential Information, such Background Information shall be treated in accordance with section 8 of the Standard Terms.

## 10. Rights and title to Foreground Information

### 10.1 Ownership

10.1.1 Rights and title to Foreground Information shall be vested solely in the Party who has generated such Foreground Information.

10.1.2 Rights and title to Foreground Information that has been generated jointly by two or more Parties shall be vested jointly in such Parties with shares equivalent to each Party's intellectual contribution.

### 10.2 Exploitation of Foreground Information

10.2.1 The Parties shall have a non-exclusive, perpetual, worldwide right to utilise, free of charge, any Foreground Information that does not enjoy intellectual property protection for commercial and non-commercial purposes. Study material and publications developed by an Institution may, however, solely be used for internal purposes by the Companies.

10.2.2 The Institutions reserve the right to use Foreground Information vested in the Parties jointly for academic purposes, including for educational purposes as well as in connection with collaboration with a Third Party.

### 10.3 Software

10.3.1 The Parties are obliged to inform each other within a reasonable time if Software has been generated.

10.3.2 In the event that an Institution generates Software as part of the Research Project, the Companies shall be entitled to obtain a non-exclusive license to commercially exploit such Software within its Field of Use, on ordinary market terms. Such Parties shall negotiate in further detail the terms and conditions of the license. Each Company shall within one (1) month from the time the Company received notification that Software was generated notify the Institution whether the Company wants to negotiate the terms of such license. In setting the terms and conditions for the license, a fair and reasonable consideration of the Company's contribution to the Research Project shall be made.

10.3.3 In the event that two or more of the Parties jointly generate Software, such Parties shall enter into an agreement concerning exploitation rights. The Parties shall agree on the terms within a period of six (6) months from the time Software was generated. If the Parties do not reach an agreement by the deadline, each Party shall be entitled to freely exploit the Software, commercially and non-commercially, provided that the non-exploiting Parties are given fair and reasonable compensation. Notwithstanding the above, the Parties shall at any time be entitled to exploit jointly owned Software for non-commercial research and educational purposes.

### 10.4 Reservations

10.4.1 Options and exploitations rights granted in section 10 are subject to the limitations set forth by mandatory law, including but not limited to data protection regulation and export control regulation.

## 11. Partnership and restriction of competition

11.1 The Agreement does not in any way create a partnership, joint venture, agent relationship, relationship based on power of attorney or a legal person. The Parties cannot bring each other into contractual relations with a Third Party.

11.2 The Parties do not in any way assume restrictions as to competition towards each other.

## 12. Duration and termination

12.1 The Agreement shall enter into force by the Parties' signature to the Collaborative Agreement with effect from the



beginning of the Research Project and shall expire when the Research Project expires as stated in section 4 of the Collaborative Agreement.

12.2 The Agreement may be terminated by a Party at a three (3)-month notice to the end of a month. The validity of the termination is subject to the condition that it is submitted in writing and signed by an authorized person of the terminating Party, which for AAU applies to persons covered by section 18 of the Standard Terms. During the notice period and until the termination date, the terminating Party shall either loyally continue its contribution to the Research Project and activities hereunder or pay to the other Parties in cash an amount corresponding to the Party's contribution in accordance with the Research Project. The Party who terminates the Agreement shall pay any additional expenses incurred by the other Parties as a direct consequence of the termination and which the other Parties has no possibility of preventing. The Parties have no other claims against each other as a result of the termination.

12.3 An Institution shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement at a one (1)-month notice to the end of a month in the event that the employee(s) of the Institution allocated to the Research Project, due to long-term illness or the like, become(s) unable to perform his/her/their tasks connected to the Research Project or in the event that his/her/their employment(s) terminate(s), no matter the reason. The right to terminate the Agreement is subject to the condition that the Institution is not able to allocate other competent employees to the Research Project.

12.4 In the event that the Agreement involves a PhD student the Agreement may only be terminated by a Company if such Company pays the full amount it is required to pay according to the Collaborative Agreement and in accordance with the Budget, cf. section 3 of the Collaborative Agreement.

12.5 Notwithstanding the termination of the Agreement, the sections that explicitly given their content are expected to survive the termination of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, including but not limited to relevant parts of sections 6-18 of the Standard Terms. In the event that a Company terminates the Agreement or is in material breach thereof, the Company shall, however, lose any option to Foreground Information granted in accordance with section 10 of the Standard Terms.

### 13. Breach of Agreement

13.1 In the event that a Party breaches its obligations according to the Agreement, the Party in breach of its obligations is required to remedy such breach within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of written demand. If the breach is substantial and is not remedied within that period, or if the breach is not capable of being remedied within that period, the Agreement may be terminated with immediate effect vis-à-vis the breaching Party.

13.2 Examples of a substantial material breach are overdue payment of financial contributions and the fact that the Company becomes subject to bankruptcy or insolvency, including making assignments for the benefit of creditors.

### 14. Liability

14.1 The Parties shall be liable in accordance with the ordinary rules of liability in Danish law. The Parties shall however not be held liable for any indirect losses, consequential damages, operating losses, lost earnings or other economic consequential losses, including claims of a Third Party, unless caused by an intentional act or omission, or by breach of the confidentiality obligations in section 8. Except in the case of gross negligence or intentional acts or omissions, a Party's collective liability shall in all respects be limited to an amount of DKK 500,000 per Party, cf. however section 14.3 of the Standard Terms.

14.2 In respect of any of the Research Project, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given or implied. Consequently, a Party shall not be liable in the event that:

- the Research Project does not lead to the expected or desired results, that the Foreground Information cannot be used or that the time schedule is exceeded,
- Foreground Information used by another Party causes infringement of Third Party rights,
- Foreground Information in the form of Software is not based entirely or partly on open source Software.

14.3 The Institutions shall not assume any liability with regards to a Company's exploitation of Foreground Information solely or partly generated by the Institutions. Thus, the Institutions shall not be held liable in the event of product liability or infringement of the rights of any Third Party caused by the Companies' commercial exploitation. Furthermore the Companies shall indemnify the Institutions against any claims from a Third Party resulting from such exploitation. Such indemnity is not limited by the liability cap in section 14.1.

### 15. Force Majeure

15.1 None of the Parties are responsible for non-fulfilment of their obligations in accordance with this Agreement where fulfilment is prevented by extraordinary circumstances which the Party in question has no control over and which the Party neither could nor should properly have foreseen when signing the Agreement and neither should have avoided nor overcome. These extraordinary circumstances include for example changes to public regulation.

15.2 If the above-mentioned force majeure event lasts for more than sixty (60) days, the other Parties are entitled to terminate the Agreement with immediate effect vis-à-vis the Party covered by the force majeure event.

### 16. Transfer of the Agreement to a Third Party

16.1 Rights and obligations in accordance with this Agreement cannot be transferred to a Third Party without the written consent of the other Parties.

16.2 The Institutions shall immediately be notified of any changes in the control of the Companies. In the event that the Institutions assess that it will be of ethical or moral concern to uphold the Agreement, the Institutions shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement with immediate effect vis-à-vis such Company. In the event of termination on such grounds the Parties shall have no claims against each other as a result of the termination.

### 17. Choice of Law and Venue

17.1 The Agreement shall be governed by Danish Law, however with the exception of international private law and rules concerning choice of law, to the extent that such rules would lead to the application of another country's law.

17.2 Any dispute between the Parties arising from this Agreement, including interpretation and application of the Agreement, that cannot be settled amicably by the Parties shall be tried by the Court of Aalborg as the court of first instance. Disputes concerning intellectual property rights may however in accordance with the rules in the Danish Administration of Justice Act be tried by the Maritime and Commercial High Court of Denmark.

### 18. Authority to sign

18.1 This Agreement shall only be valid if it is signed by a person authorized to legally bind AAU. Such authorized persons are Rector, Pro-rectors and Head of Grants & Contracts.