



Consortium Agreements for EU Horizon Europe award (DESCA model)

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Background

The signing of a Consortium Agreement between the partners of a research project is mandatory for all Horizon Europe multi beneficiary projects.

The European Commission offers general guidance for the drafting of consortium agreements but does not endorse a specific model consortium agreement. The DESCA (Development of a Simplified Consortium Agreement) initiative seeks to balance the interests of all participant categories: large and small firms, universities, public research institutes and RTOs.

DESCA is a simple and comprehensive model Consortium Agreement, stripped of all unnecessary complexity in both content and language. Elucidation notes with concrete examples and detailed explanations about the various options and clauses are provided throughout the model. These notes will help research managers without legal training and first-time Horizon Europe participants make informed choices about the best wording to protect their interests.

Template Document

Template Document *with and without elucidation notes* is available at <https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/>

Notes for populating template agreement (UCD is Lead partner)

Notes

- The Lead partner of the project will populate the template (draft version 1). Lead partner means either the lead PI or an administrator working with the PI
- Draft version 1 must be reviewed by UCD contracts review team before circulation to partners. Please contact grantreg@ucd.ie to arrange the review

- Please read the elucidation notes
- Term “party” in consortium agreement corresponds to term “beneficiary” in grant agreement
- Recitals section – Party names. Please insert official names as identified in the grant agreement
- Section 6 – Governance Structure. If governance structure for the project was described in the project proposal, please refer to this
- Section 7 – Financial Provisions. Research Finance Office will check the section over during the UCD review
- Section 8 Results. IP solicitor will check the section over during the UCD review
- Attachment 1 – UCD Nova Technology Transfer officer can assist with input

In cases where UCD is not the Lead partner

IN cases where UCD is not the Lead partner, the PI should forward the draft consortium agreement (received from the Lead Partner) to the grant registration team. The team will then start the internal review process