

Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea  
Rector of the University of Messina  
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**SUBJECT: Letter of Intent** for the activation in Convention of the PhD trajectory ACCESS ("Advanced Catalytic Processes for using Renewable Energy Sources"), in the frame of the activities of the ERC Synergy project SCOPE, for the Doctorate Cycles XXXVI-XXXVIII<sup>1</sup> in Italy pursuant to art. 2 (paragraph 2a) and to art. 10 of DM 45/2013.<sup>2</sup>

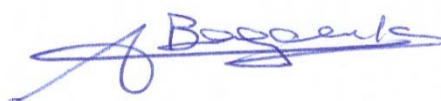
Hereby, pending the signing of the framework agreement on the basis of the contract proposal approved by the participating Universities to the ACCESS PhD trajectory and in order to allow following the correct accreditation and approval procedure for the PhD trajectory in each country, it communicates the availability to enter into an agreement with the University of Messina concerning the ACCESS PhD trajectory for cycles XXXVI-XXXVIII, pursuant to art. 2, paragraph 2a and art. 10 of DM 45/2013, and at the same time, undertakes to **finance directly, in addition to the three PhD scholarships from the University of Messina, one additional scholarship** for each of the three Doctorate cycles, starting from the cycle XXXVI. The PhD student will be selected by Universiteit Antwerpen and will pay fees at Universiteit Antwerpen, even if also enrolling at the University of Messina.

To this purpose, Universiteit Antwerpen **declares** to be in possession of high cultural and scientific qualification requirements and of suitable personnel, structures and equipment, as well as the availability of financial resources and operational and scientific structures that guarantee the sustainability of the trajectory and **undertakes** to directly finance the amount relating to the aforementioned additional scholarship for each PhD scholarship including expenses relating to mobility and allowance, in reference to the ERC Synergy SCOPE project.

We wait to receive the original of the framework agreement for the signature.

Yours sincerely,  
Antwerp, 07/05/2020

Prof. Dr. Annemie Bogaerts  
Director of Research Group PLASMANT  
University of Antwerp



<sup>1</sup> A Doctorate Cycle indicates the time necessary to complete the PhD degree. The Doctorate Cycle nr. **XXXVI starts on 1st October 2020** and those XXXVII and XXXVIII one or two years later, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> The Italian Ministerial Decree of 8 February 2013 n. 45 (DM 45/2013) indicates at **art.2, point 2a**, that "point 2. The following Institutions may apply for accreditation of the PhD trajectory: a) Italian universities, also in agreement with Italian or foreign universities and public or private research institutions, in possession of high cultural and scientific qualification requirements and suitable personnel, structures and equipment, it being understood that in such cases the administrative headquarters of the doctorate is the university, which is awarding the academic title;" and at **art. 10** " (Doctorate in agreement with foreign institutions) point 1. In order to effectively carry out the coordination of high-level international research activities, universities can activate doctoral trajectories, subjected to accreditation, with universities and research institutions of high qualification and recognized international level, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity, on the basis of agreements that provide for an effective sharing of training and research activities, the fair sharing of the burdens, the methods of regulating the forms of financial support, the methods of exchange and mobility of teachers and PhD students and the issue of the joint degree or a double or multiple doctoral degree."

INFORMATION DATA

**UNIVERSITY DATA:**

NAME: Universiteit Antwerpen

STREET: Prinsstraat 13

CITY, CAP: 2000 Antwerp, Belgium

REPRESENTED BY professor Annemie Bogaerts

DATE 07.05.2020

*DATA FOR CONTACTS CONCERNING THE SIGNATURE AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT:*

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