



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### RED ESPAÑOLA DE PLANETOLOGÍA Y ASTROBIOLOGÍA

AND

### INSTITUTO DE ASTROBIOLOGÍA DE COLOMBIA

#### **Preamble**

The RED ESPAÑOLA DE PLANETOLOGÍA Y ASTROBIOLOGÍA and the INSTITUTO DE ASTROBIOLOGÍA DE COLOMBIA hereafter respectively referred to as REDESPA and IAC are two organizations, aiming at developing Astrobiology in their respective scopes and countries.

Considering that they share common objectives, REDESPA and IAC decided to cooperate and collaborate for the development and strengthening of Astrobiology, also considering educational, ethical and public outreach issues. Therefore, the present Memorandum of Understanding is signed between the Chairs of both Organizations.

#### **REDESPA**

REDESPA es una organización que fue promovida desde el Grupo de Investigación del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas de “Meteoritos y Geociencias Planetarias”, Instituto de Geociencias, IGEO (CSIC-UCM), con el respaldo de la Red Académica y Científica de España (RedIRIS) y del Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Geólogos (ICOG), con la colaboración de expertos de distintas instituciones y organizaciones españolas. REDESPA es una plataforma abierta a investigadores, educadores, divulgadores, asociaciones, sociedades y grupos interesados en dichas temáticas con vocación multidisciplinar. Una red flexible y versátil que permite disponer de un foro de integración para coordinar y aunar sinergias en y desde España sobre Astrobiología y Ciencias del Espacio.



REDESPA is: 1) officially included in the directory of the International Astronomical Union (IAU); 2) currently representing Spain in the European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA), and 3) a founder organization of the Latin-American Astrobiology Network and the European Astrobiology Institute.

## IAC

El Instituto de Astrobiología de Colombia (IAC), entidad dedicada a promover y generar comunicación, educación e investigación de alta calidad en el área de Astrobiología y medio ambiente, de interés nacional e internacional con el fin de proporcionar el conocimiento científico y tecnológico necesario para la elaboración de planes y proyectos que conduzcan a la sostenibilidad de la vida en nuestro planeta mediante el empleo de la capacidad científica y tecnológica del instituto y su articulación con otras entidades.

El IAC busca incorporar el desarrollo de espacios que permitan el crecimiento, fomento e innovación en el ámbito educativo del país enmarcado dentro de su política de responsabilidad social. Para el logro de sus objetivos, cuenta con plataformas que le permitirán el logro de las mismas entre las que se encuentran el Programa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

El IAC tiene como objeto dar apoyo científico y técnico a las instituciones, organizaciones, universidades o redes de investigación nacional e internacional, en comunicación educación e investigación en Astrobiología, recursos naturales renovables y medio ambiente. Buscamos ser una institución líder en la integración científica y tecnológica de excelencia, reconocida en el ámbito nacional e internacional por su altísima calidad y liderazgo en sus actividades de comunicación, educación e investigación y su compromiso con el aprovechamiento de su capacidad científica.

## **Justification for this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

Astrobiology is an important subject in the framework of the academic, scientific, technological and human backgrounds and activities involving scientists, engineers and other experts from a multidisciplinary approach. This relationship matches well with the issues that are defined as the major aims and objectives of REDESPA and IAC respectively. Since the establishment of REDESPA,



this organization comes collaborating on Astrobiology with the main national and international organizations and societies. The cooperation between REDESPA and IAC will allow the creation of new synergies and enhance their respective activities.

### **Objective of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The objective of the MoU is to bring the two organizations (REDESPA and IAC) together to raise the awareness of giving due attention to the conjunction of scientific, educational and ethical aspects in the context of space sciences and astrobiology, through joint actions, including institutional cooperation on different subjects and at different levels.

### **Areas of cooperation/Terms**

- a. The area of cooperation will be Astrobiology
- b. Both organizations will have a link to the other organization in their respective websites.
- c. When organizing joint initiatives/events, both organizations will include their respective logos.
- d. Selected Staff Members of each organization will have free access (unless strictly confidential subjects) to the materials produced by the other organization.
- e. Both organizations will support each other in international fora for the development of their respective activities and recognizing their roles.
- f. Other similar activities as might be deemed necessary and agreed upon by both organizations in the future.

### **Focal points**

Both organizations will appoint a focal point, who will be responsible for the formal and informal contacts between the organizations.

### **Entry into force**

The Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force upon signature by the Parties.

### **Duration of the MOU**



This Memorandum of Understanding is signed for an initial period of four years and will be automatically renewed, for the same period, except indicated otherwise by either party.

### **Termination of MoU**

Each Party shall have the right to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding by giving three months written notice to the other Party at any time. If the Memorandum of Understanding is terminated by either Party, steps shall be taken to ensure that the termination does not affect any prior obligation, project or activity already in progress.

### **Amendment of Memorandum of Understanding**

The Memorandum of Understanding may be modified or amended by written agreement between the Parties.

27 October 2018

The Director of REDESPA

The Director of IAC

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Jesús Martínez Frías

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Jorge E. Bueno Prieto