



Memorandum of Understanding

To foster the advancement of basic sciences in Eastern Europe and Near Asia (in particular, Balkan, Black Sea, Inner Asia, Middle East and Northern Africa) countries, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Trieste-Italy), a United Nations organization working under the umbrella of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the İzmir Institute of Technology (IZTECH, İzmir-Turkey) will collaborate towards the creation of an "ICTP – Eurasian Centre for Advanced Research (ICTP – ECAR)". This collaboration will take place along the following principles:

I. Scientific Objectives

The Centre will start its operations in areas of fundamental physical sciences which have strong relevance to technological applications (such as Basic Science, Material Science, Renewable Energy, Computational Sciences, Life Sciences and related fields) and, depending on the availability of funds and need, gradually expand its activities into other areas.

The long-range objective is to create a number of regional scientific Centres of Excellence in the Extended Middle East region. ICTP will act as the central coordinator of such Centres.

II. Governing Body

a) Steering Committee

The highest Governing Organ of the Centre will be its Steering Committee whose members will consist of the key partners, policy makers and scientists, in Turkey, in the region, and in the international landscape. The number of the members of the Steering Committee will not exceed 6 and will not be less than 3. Its decisions will be mandatory upon the explicit agreement of at least 3/4 of its members.

The Steering Committee will appoint an acting director to start the process of establishing the Centre and help him/her to raise funds for its operation. The mandate of the acting Director should last up to a maximum period of 3 years. Within this period the Steering Committee will finalize the appointment of a permanent Director who will be appointed for a period of 5 years that can be renewed only for an extra 5-year term.

The acting Director will have the right of appointing a Deputy Director for a period not exceeding his/her own term in office. The appointment should be approved by the Steering Committee. The permanent Director will have the right of appointing his/her own Deputy Director subject to the approval of the Steering Committee.

The membership of the following organizations and government bodies in the Steering Committee will be mandatory:

- i) Representatives of major sponsoring government bodies of Turkey.
- ii) The Director of ICTP or his/her representative.
- iii) The Rector of IZTECH or his/her representative.

The Steering Committee will decide about the major policies concerning the Centre. This consists of the funding of the Centre, selection and appointment of its Director, the number of administrative positions, and overseeing the spending of the budget of the Centre.

The Steering Committee will have a Chairperson and a Coordinator. The Internal Rules and Regulations of the Committee will be spelled out in a separate document.

b) Scientific Council

The Scientific Council will consist of 9 to 12 internationally well-known scientists who are from major institutions or laboratories in scientific or technological areas. This Council will be formed by the Steering Committee, and its members will be appointed for renewable 4-year terms. The Centre's Director works with the Scientific Council, and the Scientific Council decides about the following major acts:

- i) Establishing and overseeing the hiring standards for research staff of the Centre.
- ii) Approving the hiring, extension and other details of the research staff.
- iii) Approving the annual scientific program of the Centre.

The Scientific Council makes decisions upon the explicit agreement of at least 7/10 of its members.

III. Staffing

a) Administrative Staff

The Centre will have a Director, a Deputy Director, and a centralized administrative and financial staff. All measures should be taken to shape the administrative body in such a way that the engagement of the scientists in non-scientific issues is minimized.

b) Scientific Staff



i) There will be a limited number of permanent scientific staff of the Centre to coordinate the scientific activities of the Centre. Permanent positions refer to 5-year renewable contracts at the Centre together with joint faculty appointments at the respective departments of IZTECH, where supervision of graduate students and 1 graduate course/year may be allowed. The number and fields of permanent scientific staff positions will be assigned by the decision of Steering Committee. Applications to the permanent positions will be open internationally and at the associate professor or professor level. The candidates will be evaluated by an International Search Committee formed by the Scientific Council. The Search Committee will form a short list of top qualified candidates for the posts, and the Director will appoint the candidates in accordance with the Committee's list and subject to the approval of the Scientific Council.

ii) Permanent members, visiting senior scientists (short-term visitors, long-term visitors, sabbaticals etc.), and post-doctoral research fellows will form the body of research staff in the Centre.

iii) 2-year post-doctoral fellow positions will be funded by the Centre or externally by institutions such as TÜBİTAK, TÜBA or Industry. The appointment and extensions of the post-doctoral fellows are decided by the Centre's Directorate upon the evaluation and approval of the Scientific Council.

iv) It is foreseen that graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and active researchers from Turkey and the region will visit the Centre regularly for short or long periods of time.

IV. Level and the modality of the activities of the Centre

The Centre will be involved with training and research at graduate and post-doctoral levels. In particular it will support and facilitate research in Turkey and in the Eurasia region in leading technologies and scientific developments at the frontier.

The activities of the Centre will be modeled on those of ICTP, and will include annual organization of Schools, Courses, Workshops and Conferences in areas of competence of the Centre combined with an active visiting program.

V. The Role of ICTP

ICTP will participate in a decision-making capacity in the creation and operations of the Centre. Its Director or his representative will be one of the members of the Steering Committee of the Centre with rights equal to other partners. ICTP will also have a representative in the Scientific Council of the Centre.

ICTP will provide an International umbrella for the operations of the Centre as long as its policies and the quality of its programs are compatible with the mandate of the ICTP. In particular, at least in initial stages of operations of the Centre, ICTP will cooperate in fund raising, the organization of activities at all



levels and sponsoring of the visitors from the least developed countries of the region. The details of the modality of the ICTP support will be given in a separate document.

VI. The Role of IZTECH

Being the home of the Centre and its activities, the role of IZTECH is crucial. The Centre will have certain practical needs to be covered by IZTECH, and these can be detailed in separate documents in case of need or by enforcement of local or international law.

The administrative and scientific positions in the Centre will be detailed in the foundational documents. In the initial stages of the Centre, IZTECH will provide required office space, administrative and scientific positions, and infrastructure for the activities of the Centre.

This MoU will be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of its signing, with the possibility of renewal with the consent of all parties. Each party can withdraw from it with an advanced notice of 6 months. ICTP maintains the right to withdraw its name from the Centre with a 3 months' notice if it judges the activities of the Center not to be compatible with its standards.

Furthermore, ICTP will consult the Legal Advisor of UNESCO before the agreement becomes fully effective.

Signatories:

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for Theoretical Physics

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Rector
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