

Contracts

A research contract is a legally binding agreement that sets out the rights and obligations of the parties concerned, and which forms the basis of a relationship around a particular research programme, exchange of information or materials or other collaboration.

- **Research contract.** This is a contract which provides funding for a specific research project. It can be funded by a company, government body, agency, and it contains terms and conditions governing the conduct of the project, as well as obligations incumbent upon the University Spiru Haret (USH) and the funder. The purpose of a research contract is to set out the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in a research project, i.e. the USH, the academics, researchers, students and the funding body.
- **European Commission Grant.** Three forms of grants are proposed for the EU financial contribution:
 - reimbursement of eligible costs,
 - lump sums, and
 - flat-rate financing (the latter can be based on scale of unit costs but also includes flat rates for indirect costs).

These may be used to cover the entire EU financial contribution for a funding scheme or more than one may be used in combination. For most funding schemes, reimbursement of eligible costs is the preferred method.

- **European Commission Consortium Agreement.** Consortium Agreements for European Commission projects are mandatory for most Framework Programme 7 (FP7) projects and the Commission requires that the Consortium Agreement is negotiated and signed before it will sign the Grant Agreement (i.e. the contract) for the project. The Consortium Agreement is concluded between all partners in the consortium but the Commission is not a party to it. Consortium Agreements supplement the Grant Agreement by expanding on and clarifying key terms and conditions (e.g. Intellectual Property, confidentiality, liability, publication rights) and provide details of the internal management and working practices of the consortium (e.g. voting rights, internal reporting structure, dispute resolution).
- **Confidentiality or Non-Disclosure Agreement (CDA or NDA).** This is an agreement to regulate the ways by which confidential information, including Intellectual Property, may be disclosed by one party to another. The agreement sets out the terms of disclosure and whether information is returned to the provider or destroyed upon request. Confidential information includes any information, results or know-how that is owned by someone, and which the owner wishes to be kept secret. The disclosure of confidential information requires that a confidentiality agreement is signed before any discussions take place.