1. Project Objectives
The objective of the Battuta programme coordinated by Université de Rouen, France and Université Badji Mokhtar – Annaba, Algeria, is to promote institutional cooperation and mobility activities.

2. Definitions
The following definitions will be used in this Consortium Agreement (the “Agreement”):
- Battuta: Erasmus Mundus Project allowing funding of mobilities for third countries of Lot 1
- Coordinating Institution: Université de Rouen, responsible for the global management of the project
- Project Co-coordinator: Université Abdelhamid Ibn Badis, Mostaganem, responsible for the promotion of the program.
- Partner Universities: every university who has signed the Consortium Agreement.
- TC: Will refer to the following group of countries, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia
- Scholarship Holder: A person who has been awarded a scholarship by the Battuta programme.
- Home University: A university within the Battuta partnership which is the regular study- or work place for a Scholarship Holder.
- Host University: A university within the Battuta partnership which has agreed to receive Scholarship Holders.
- Specific Grant Agreement: Agreement between the European Commission and the Coordinating Institution for the BATTUTA project
- Partnership statement: document signed by the legal representative of each partner university in order to be part of the BATTUTA project
- Selection Committee: Elected each year, this committee is responsible for the selection of candidates according to the criteria in the selection guidelines
- Participation Cost: any compulsory administrative/operational cost related to the participation of the scholarship holders in the BATTUTA project (e.g. tuition fees, student unions, laboratories consumable costs, residence permit, language courses, campus facilities, etc.)
- TG1 (Target Group 1): Nationals of the partner universities of the project who are registered in one of the university that is a member of the partnership.
- TG2 (Target Group 2): Nationals of the partner countries who are registered at a higher education institution of these countries that is not included in the partnership or have obtained a university degree or equivalent by an institution of these countries.
- TG3 (Target Group 3): Nationals of the TC countries who are in particularly vulnerable situations, for social and political reasons.

3. Areas of cooperation
The conditions for the BATTUTA partnership are outlined in the Specific Grant Agreement (provided by the funding agency – annexed to the present consortium agreement) for the geographical lot and current year concerned. In order to achieve the purpose of the partnership, as outlined above, and in order to follow the conditions outlined in the Specific Grant Agreement, the following general forms of cooperation will be pursued during the term of the project, with regard to an approval of extension by the European Commission: project management, information activities, quality assurance, academic recognition, Student and academic staff mobility, cooperation and/or joint teaching and research activities.

3.1 Student and staff mobility
3.1.1 Call for available fields of study
All Partner Universities are required to register available academic and administrative offers in the application database. The database will be updated once a year, before the opening of the call for application. Each Partner University is required to find areas and positions that suit the cooperation scheme, in terms of interest from providers and applicants as well as in terms of following the BATTUTA partnership intentions as stated in the application. All partners commit themselves to provide adequate offers according to the disciplines opened for the Lot 1 programme.

3.1.2 Promotion and visibility
All Partner Universities are responsible for the promotion and visibility of the BATTUTA partnership in general and for the promotion of the call for applications in particular, for example by organizing meetings, approaching media and relevant organizations and authorities, and using available information tools to reach potential mobility candidates. Each Partner University shall also assist applicants with relevant information to facilitate the application procedure.
The Coordinating Institution is responsible for the coordination of the promotion and visibility of the program. The Co-coordinator is responsible for the diffusion of the information on the program among the partner universities.

3.1.3 Selection of Scholarship Holders
Each Home Partner University is responsible for validating its own student applications (TG1), and for providing a ranking list of applicants. Each Host Partner University must make a pre-selection and ranking for each level of grant and each thematic field. Each partner University chooses according to its own rules the way the selection is organised. In addition, the Project Co-coordinator will validate the application for TG2 and TG3 applicants.
The Selection Committee is responsible for the final selection of the applications of scholarships candidates. The three selection committees will be composed of the Coordinator and the co-coordinator and by members chosen
among staff of each partner university. Each partner university will have one seat at the selection committee that will be fixed during the kick off meeting.

In order to ensure transparency and fair treatment, the Selection Committee is responsible for the selection of candidates according to the criteria in the selection guidelines (Academic and language requirements, quality of application, priority thematic fields, relevance of mobility for the host institution, equity consideration for designated TG1, TG2 and TG3, equal geographic representation of the partner universities in the mobility scheme, gender and socio-economic equality, brain-drain prevention and future cooperation).

Selection Committee members who participate in the selection are not allowed to apply for grants and shall commit to avoid any conflict of interest.

The Selection Committee will decide on the final list of selected students and provide a reserve list. The Coordinating Institution will send the final list for final acknowledgement.

3.1.5 Practical arrangements during the mobility period
Each receiving Partner University is responsible for providing all possible assistance to their incoming Scholarship Holders before and during the mobility. This may include instructions on visa procedures, housing, payment of monthly allowances, courses registration for students and office facilities for post docs and staff, help on the opening of a bank account etc. In addition, each receiving Partner University shall provide support that allow the Scholarship Holders to gain an understanding of the host country, for instance by offering language courses, a mentor program and to organize social and cultural events.

3.2 Dissemination of knowledge about HEIs and systems in Europe and Third Countries
All Partner Universities have the responsibility to increase knowledge about each other’s higher education systems and allow the academic recognition for all Scholarship Holders. The possibility of organizing conferences and workshops about the HEI and higher education systems in the European and Third Countries will be decided upon jointly within the BATTUTA consortium. Additionally, each Partner University is encouraged to work actively with the dissemination of knowledge and understanding about the higher education systems in these regions.

3.3 Cooperation and/or joint teaching and research activities
Cooperative activities between the Partner Universities, such as joint research activities, joint courses, programs and other activities shall be encouraged. Partners are required to report and share such projects with the rest of the Consortium in order to encourage similar projects to evolve.

3.4 Academic recognition
One of the main objectives of the BATTUTA partnership is to improve transparency and comparability and to facilitate academic recognition of studies and qualifications in order to overcome barriers such as the differentiation of degree systems. It is therefore a minimum requirement for all partners to consider the study period abroad as an integral part of the study program of each Scholarship Holder. Efforts to achieve full academic recognition will be made by the Home University for the study period spent at the Host University. If mandatory law prevents academic recognition, this will be reported to the European Commission and dealt with according to the objectives of the cooperation.

3.4.1 Mechanisms for study credits recognition and transfer
For each Scholarship Holder, a Learning Agreement, Workplan or an agreement for the transfer of academic merits must be established. The Scholarship Holder and the Home University must define and acknowledge the program that will be performed and fill in the applicable agreement prior to the Scholarship Holder’s departure to the Host University. By signing a Learning Agreement or Workplan, the Home University is committed to full recognition of the academic merit of the period abroad for Scholarship Holders as long as the Scholarship Holders fulfil the requirements described on the Learning Agreement or Workplan. If academic recognition is not possible, this will have to be communicated to the Scholarship Holder before departure from the Home University. In
addition, where appropriate, transcripts of records or similar will be issued by the Host University to all Scholarship Holders.

4. Administrative arrangements
The major decision-making body in the BATTUTA partnership is the Consortium, taking its decisions at annual consortium meetings. Internal management is provided by the Coordinating Institution. Each Partner University is responsible for the administrative arrangements concerning their incoming and outgoing Scholarship Holders and for the reporting throughout the BATTUTA partnership term.

5. Financial arrangements
There are two different types of budgets for the BATTUTA partnership, one for the management of the project and one for the implementation of student mobility.

For the management of the project, a fixed amount of four thousand (4000) euros is granted to each Partner University. The first payment of two thousand (2000) euros will be made as soon as the Partner University has signed the consortium agreement and has fulfilled its obligations regarding participation at the first consortium meeting. The second payment of two thousand (2000) euros will be made once the Partner University has sent the required documents to justify the expenses for the first two thousand (2000) euros to the Coordinating Institution.

The funds for the management of the project can be used by the Partner Universities for meetings (travel costs), promotion, administrative costs, etc. The Partner Universities shall report about the use of the two types of grants to the Coordinating Institution on demand.

According to each partner regulations, the lump sum of 4000 euros may be directly managed by the University of Rouen.

An amount of ten thousand (10 000) euros is also granted to the Co-coordinator as soon as the Co-coordinator has signed the consortium agreement and has fulfilled its obligations regarding participation at the first consortium meeting.

The implementation of mobility has a fixed budget for the scholarships, covering on one hand monthly allowances and on the other hand participation costs for mobility of 10 months or higher.

Monthly allowances will be transferred directly from the University of Rouen to all scholarship holders but:
- European institutions will receive the first two months for their incoming students so to reduce the time needed for the first bank transfer. The equivalent amount will be transferred to each Institution after the scholarship holder has confirmed his/her participation.
- As per national regulations and taxes, the University of Cluj-Napoca will receive the full amount of the grant and will be responsible of the monthly transfers for its incoming students.

Participation costs will be sent to each partner institution after confirmation of participation of the scholarship holders. In the event of stays counting less than 10 months, the partner institution engages itself to reimburse the coordinating institution.

The financial arrangements between the student, the coordinating institution and the host institution partnership will be regulated by a Specific Scholarship Agreement.

The Coordinating Institution will be responsible for providing the insurance and arranging travel for the scholarship holders.

6. Reporting
Any changes in the mobility shall be reported by the affected Host University to the coordinating university. All Partner Universities must provide the Coordinating Institution with any necessary documentation as
requested, including the accounts of Partner Universities, the original accounting documents, and documents proving the mobility and the academic activity.

All Partner Universities are required to keep all verifications and supporting documents for a period of five (5) years from the date of the financial closure of the BATTUTA partnership.

If a Partner University has not duly performed its reporting obligations, the Coordinating Institution is entitled to withhold any payments of EU contribution due to a Partner University until such reporting obligations have been fulfilled. Pre-financed amounts of the EU contribution not used for financing the BATTUTA partnership in accordance with the Specific Grant Agreement shall be repaid to the Coordinating Institution. This applies for all activities, the organization of mobility and the implementation of mobility.

7. Legal relationship
The legal relationship between the Partner Universities, including the Coordinating Institution and Co-coordinator, is regulated by this Agreement, the Partnership Statement and the Specific Grant Agreement. In case of conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the provisions of the above-mentioned agreements, the Specific Grant Agreement takes precedence.

8. Beginning and termination
This Agreement will be effective from the date of signature of all Parties, provided that the BATTUTA partnership enters into force, and will remain in force up to and including the end date of the BATTUTA partnership as established by the Specific Grant Agreement.

9. Disputes
The Parties agree that they shall attempt to resolve any interpretation and/or any dispute arising from this Agreement through amicable settlement.

10. Signatures
The legal representative of each Partner shall sign this agreement in two (2) originals and return these original copies duly signed to the University of Rouen. The University of Rouen will prepare original versions and return to each Party an original copy.

Made in Annaba in two (2) originals

Université Badji Mokhtar – Annaba
Legal representative: Pr Ammar HAIAHEM

Date: 24 avril 2014

Signature and stamp: