

## Memorandum of Understanding

Between

**Ariadne - European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights [Ariadne]**

and

**EDGE Funders Alliance [EDGE]**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding of a collaboration between Ariadne and EDGE that shall help the partners to support each other in fulfilling their respective missions and to increase their potential in providing learning and exchange opportunities for funders. Its intention is to move beyond a logic of competition and rather align efforts through a joined purpose of changing and moving philanthropy to support progressive causes and ideas, in the spirit of Frederic Laloux: *“Anybody who can help to achieve the purpose on a wider scale or more quickly is a friend, an ally, not a competitor.”*<sup>1</sup>

### Background

Ariadne and EDGE, while having emerged in different contexts and geographies and addressing different challenges of foundations, share many common values and objectives. These are reflected in the partners' missions of *“raising awareness and deepen understanding of the interconnected nature of the social, economic and ecological crises threatening our common future, and increasing resources for communities and movements creating systemic change alternatives for a transition to a society that supports justice, equity and the well-being of the planet”* (EDGE) and *“being a well-informed and lively affinity group of European grant-makers and donors of all kinds and sizes with the skills and information to foster sustained social change and human rights, to advance a society that ensures dignity, opportunity and justice for all and serving as a flexible hub that enables participants to play an effective role in underpinning civil society in Europe and globally”* (Ariadne).

Against this background, Ariadne and EDGE already started several years ago to build closer ties between the networks. Using similar tools and methods the two organisations regularly seek each others' advice and adopt successful ideas and models. This MOU shall not only help the networks to benefit even more from their respective experience and expertise but the partners also believe that the MOU will open opportunities for joint activities as a way of better using resources towards their objectives of systemic or social change. Special consideration shall be given to the question of how EDGE and Ariadne can support each other in growing their respective membership and how they can coordinate on engaging with the members of both networks.

In agreeing on this MOU, Ariadne and EDGE aim to deepen the idea that they are complementary elements of a larger effort towards creating more equal and democratic societies. The two networks hope that their partnership will set an example for others and that it will become one thread in a net of collaborations between philanthropy infrastructure organisations in Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> Laloux, F. (2016) Reinventing Organizations. An illustrated invitation to join the conversation on next-stage organizations

## Purpose

This MOU will serve Ariadne and EDGE to systematize their sharing of information for keeping on top on the needs and interests of their members and to establish a structured communication for coordinating activities or planning joint activities.

This purpose will be accomplished by undertaking the following kind of activities, considering that not their accurate delivery is important, but the constant cultivation of joint purpose and alignment:

1. EDGE and Ariadne leadership meet in March of every year to inform each other about their current strategy and to discuss joint objectives and ways of collaboration.
2. The Ariadne and EDGE membership coordinators send each other in September of every year a list of their current members.
3. EDGE and Ariadne programme staff meet in September of every year to jointly analyse recent developments and emerging interests in their member organisations.
4. Ariadne and EDGE coordinate programming and calendars, in order to seek complementarity between activities and to avoid date conflicts.
5. EDGE and Ariadne representatives regularly participate in each other's conferences and other activities, as appropriate. They waive conference fees for one representative per organisation and give each other the opportunity to propose and organise sessions, at the discretion of the respective organising committees.
6. Ariadne and EDGE aim to organise at least one joint annual activity.
7. EDGE and Ariadne waive fees for their staff's access to their respective members' platforms.

## Reporting

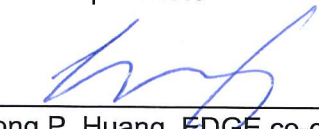
The Ariadne Advisory Board and the EDGE Board of Directors will evaluate the effectiveness and adherence to the agreement, in their first session after the annual meeting of the EDGE director and the Ariadne director in March.

## Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds.

## Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from Ariadne and EDGE. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from EDGE and Ariadne and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners.

  
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Cuong P. Huang, EDGE co-chair

  
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Juliette Decoster, Ariadne board member

Place and Date:

La Bergerie 27 Jun 19

Place and Date:

La Bergerie 27.06.19