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# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COLLABORATION

## DEMOCRACY PARADOX

### *A CROSS-NATIONAL STUDY ON DEMOCRACY, BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS, AND WELL-BEING ACROSS THE WORLD*

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This Scientific Research Agreement (the “**Agreement**”) is entered into on the date of the last signature by and between the following parties:

**Universiteit Gent (Ghent University)**, public institution with legal personality, having its administrative offices in Belgium, B-9000 Gent, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, company registration number 0248.015.142, for whom its rector, acts by delegation pursuant to the Board of Governors' decision, who entrusts the execution of the present agreement to Maarten Vansteenkiste, department of Developmental, Personality and Social Psychology (“**UGent**”);

**AND**

\_\_\_\_\_, having its offices at \_\_\_\_\_,  
registered under company number \_\_\_\_\_, duly represented by \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 (“**Partner**”)

<b>Project:</b>	Democracy Paradox - a cross-national study on democracy, basic psychological needs, and well-being across the world		
<b>Start date:</b>		<b>End date:</b>	
<b>Target Audience</b>	Non-clinical adult population in		

The Project requires collaboration with a large number of international partners who will contribute to participant recruitment and data collection, and UGent must ensure equal treatment, scientific integrity, and uniform contractual conditions across all participating institutions. Due to the scale of the Project, the need for consistent data management, uniform publication procedures, and the protection of UGent’s intellectual property, this Agreement is issued as a standardized, non-negotiable contract applicable to all participating partners. Therefor accepting this Agreement is a prerequisite for participation in the Project, and no deviations, amendments, or alternative contractual terms will be accepted.

This Agreement consists of this Signing Page and the General Terms and Conditions as well as any document annexed to the General Terms and Conditions. In case of conflict between these documents, the special terms and conditions as set out in the General Terms and Conditions will prevail.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior arrangements, understandings, representations and communications, oral or written with respect to its subject matter.

For Partner		For UGent	
Signature		Signature:	
Name:		Name:	Prof. dr. Petra De Sutter
Position:		Position:	Rector
Date:		Date:	
		<b>UGent Promoter</b>	
		Signature:	
		Name:	Maarten Vansteenkiste
		Department:	Developmental, Personality and Social Psychology

===== END OF SIGNING PAGE =====

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

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### Article 1 DEFINITIONS

1.1. In this Agreement the following expressions (either in singular or plural and with first letter capitalised) have the meaning as set forth below:

**Questionnaire** means a curated set of questions on perceptions of pervasive conditions and subject well-being together with all Supporting Information, as made available to participants via a digital platform and implemented by the Provider within the Qualtrics platform.

**Supporting Information** means all documentation and digital content necessary to conduct the survey, including participant instructions, a manual with project information and guidance on the recruitment of participants, required privacy notices, informed consent forms, technical metadata such as platform-specific logic or validation rules, and any introductory or background materials provided to participants.

**Results** means the dataset obtained from the digital survey of the target audience conducted via the Questionnaire hosted on the Qualtrics platform.

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### Article 2 THE PROJECT

2.1. Partner shall recruit participants in accordance with the instructions provided in the Supporting Information and shall provide each participant with a link to the Questionnaire.

2.2. UGent is responsible for the technical implementation of both the Questionnaire and the Supporting Information within the Qualtrics platform to ensure the survey is accessible and functions correctly for the target audience via the digital interface.

2.3. The parties shall reasonably endeavour to obtain all regulatory and ethical licences, consents and approvals necessary to allow them to carry out the tasks allotted to them in the Project. If local ethical approval is necessary for the performance of the Project, Partner shall use reasonable efforts to obtain local ethical approval where required. UGent shall provide the Partner with the ethical protocol and supporting ethical documentation prepared for the Project, which the Partner may use for the purpose of obtaining local ethical approval.

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### Article 3 FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

Each of the parties shall bear its own costs and expenses associated with the performance of its tasks in the Project. No financial compensation or payment is foreseen under this Agreement.

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### Article 4 USE AND EXPLOITATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

4.1. The Questionnaire and all the Supporting Information are property of UGent and are provided to Partner for the sole purpose of carrying out the project as contemplated by this Agreement. The Partner shall preserve and faithfully reproduce all copyright notices and other proprietary rights notices included in or relating to the Questionnaire, the Supporting Information, or the (anonymized) Results. The Partner shall not remove, modify, obscure, or interfere with any such notices in any manner.

- 4.2. No right or license to use the Questionnaire or any related supporting materials is granted or implied by this Agreement except for the rights expressly granted in this Agreement.
- 4.3. UGent will own the Results and may take such steps as it may decide from time to time, and at its own expense, to register and maintain any protection for the intellectual property in the Results.
- 4.4. UGent shall anonymize the Results and provide the anonymized version to the Partner. UGent retains full ownership and exclusive control over all Results, including all anonymized versions.
- 4.5. UGent grants the Partner a personal, non-exclusive, non-transferable, and non-sublicensable limited right to use the anonymized Results and the Questionnaire solely for internal academic research and educational purposes. Recipient will not obtain or attempt to obtain patent coverage on the (anonymized) Results or Questionnaire or on any use thereof without prior written and specific consent by UGent.
- 4.6. The Partner shall not:
- attempt to re-identify any individual from the anonymized Results;
  - use any technology or data linking techniques to reverse the anonymization process; or
  - permit any third party to attempt such re-identification.
- 4.7. If the Partner discovers the identity of any individual within the Results, it must immediately notify UGent, maintain the confidentiality of that identity, and follow UGent's instructions regarding the remediation or deletion of that data.
- 4.8. Partner must use the anonymized Results in a safe manner and in compliance with all applicable laws, guidelines and regulations including, but not limited to, laws and regulations on import, export and environment.
- 4.9. Partner shall not publish or disseminate the raw anonymized Results, in whole or in part. Partner may only publish statistical analyses, aggregated outcomes, or secondary analyses based on the Results, and only after UGent has published the first scientific publication as described in Article 5.

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## Article 5 PUBLICATION

- 5.1. UGent shall have the exclusive right to make the first publication concerning the Project and the (anonymized) Results. After UGent has exercised its right of first publication, the Partner may publish. To this end UGent shall provide each of the Partners with a copy of the final publication.
- 5.2. Partner shall provide an extended summary of any publication to UGent prior to submission to a scientific journal, this to keep track of the output of the Project.
- 5.3. The parties shall mutually recognize each other's contributions to the Project in all publications, reports, or public disseminations. All attribution and recognition of contributor roles must comply with the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) principles as defined by the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), available at <https://credit.niso.org>. Under this framework, the Parties agree to the following specific designations:
1. The Partner shall be recognized as Data Curator for its role in managing, cleansing, and maintaining the research data; and
  2. All other contributors shall be assigned one or more of the 14 CRediT roles (such as Conceptualization, Methodology, or Software) based on their actual professional contributions to the Results.

Neither Party may publish or disseminate information regarding the project without providing the other party with the appropriate contributor credit as established under these principles.

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**Article 6 CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 6.1. Partner shall during the Project Period and for a period of **five (5) years** thereafter, not disclose to any third party, nor use for any purpose except the carrying out of the Project, any of UGent's anonymized Results as provided by UGent pursuant to art. 4.4. These are considered confidential information.
- 6.2. Partner shall limit disclosure of any confidential information to only those of its employees, contractors or students (if applicable) to the extent necessary for the performance of the Project. The parties will use diligent efforts to make a selection of the above mentioned persons and ensure that each of them preserve and protect the confidentiality of all confidential information in accordance to the confidentiality obligations under this Agreement.
- 6.3. Neither party shall use the other party's name or trademarks for advertising purposes without express written consent. In all other communications concerning the Project (including any publication), the parties shall refer to each other as customary (in accordance with good academic practice).

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**Article 7 WARRANTIES – LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**

- 7.1. The parties ensure that they shall respect human rights (<https://www.ugent.be/en/ghentuniv/mission/human-rights/overview.htm>).
- 7.2. Neither party accepts any liability or responsibility for any use by the other party of any (anonymized) Results, nor for any reliance which may be placed by that other party on any (anonymized) Results, nor for advice or information given in connection with any (anonymized) Results.
- 7.3. The liability of either party to the other for any breach of this Agreement, any negligence or arising in any other way, whether direct or indirect, out of the subject matter of this Agreement, the Project and the Results, will not extend to any indirect damages or losses, or to any loss of profits, loss of revenue, loss of data, loss of contracts or opportunity even if the party bringing the claim has advised the other of the possibility of those losses, or if they were within the other party's contemplation.

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**Article 8 TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 8.1. If this Agreement becomes effective after the Start Date, it will apply retrospectively to work carried out in relation to the Project on or after the Start Date. This Agreement remains in force until the End Date.
- 8.2. Each of the parties may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect by giving notice to the other party if:
  - (a) the other party is in breach of any provision of this Agreement and if such breach is capable of remedy, the breach has not been remedied within twenty (20) calendar days after receipt of a written notice specifying the breach and requiring its remedy; or
  - (b) the other party becomes insolvent, or if an order is made or a resolution is passed for its winding up (except voluntarily for the purpose of solvent amalgamation or reconstruction), or if an administrator, administrative receiver or receiver is appointed over the whole or any part of the other party's assets, or if the other party makes any arrangement with its creditors; or
  - (c) if the other party is involved in a serious or systematic violation of human rights.
- 8.3. After termination of this Agreement, any obligation, which by its nature extends beyond the term or termination of this Agreement, will remain in full force and effect for an undetermined term or for the specific term as set forth therein.

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**Article 9 PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

The parties acknowledge and agree that each party is a separate and independent controller in respect of any personal data being processed. Each party must ensure that the necessary personal data of any data subject(s) are obtained in a valid manner and that it has a legitimate legal ground and purpose for processing them, according to the applicable data protection laws. Any data transferred between the parties shall be anonymized.

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**Article 10 GENERAL**

- 10.1. Assignment.** Neither party may assign or transfer this Agreement as a whole, or any of its rights or obligations under it, without first obtaining the written consent of the other party. That consent may not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- 10.2. Illegal/unenforceable provisions.** If the whole or any part of any provision of this Agreement is void or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, the other provisions of this Agreement, and the rest of the void or unenforceable provision, will continue in force in that jurisdiction, and the validity and enforceability of that provision in any other jurisdiction will not be affected.
- 10.3. No agency.** Nothing in this Agreement creates, implies or evidences any partnership or joint venture between the parties, or the relationship between them of principal and agent. Neither party has any authority to make any representation or commitment, or to incur any liability, on behalf of the other.
- 10.4. Governing law.** This Agreement is governed by, and is to be construed in accordance with Belgian Law, without giving effect to its conflict of law rules. The courts of the judicial district of East Flanders, department Ghent, will have exclusive jurisdiction to deal with any dispute which has arisen or may arise out of or in connection with this Agreement, except that either party may bring proceedings for an injunction in any jurisdiction.
- 10.5. Electronic Signatures and Counterparts.** The parties agree that this Agreement and any related documents may be executed and delivered by electronic signature, including by use of an electronic signing platform or by exchanging scanned copies (such as PDF files). Any electronic signature or digitally delivered signed document will have the same legal effect as a handwritten signature.

This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. Each counterpart will be deemed an original, and all counterparts together will constitute a single agreement.

Delivery of an executed counterpart of this Agreement (including by email or via an electronic signing service) constitutes valid execution and delivery. This clause will apply to any modification, renewal, extension or other document carried out in connection with this Agreement.

===== END OF GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS =====