

**Cooperation Agreement**  
**between**  
**International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network**  
**and**  
**State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science**  
**and**  
**National Academy of Science of the Republic of Armenia**

The International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network (hereafter referred to as ICRANet), located in Pescara (Italy), Piazza della Repubblica n.10 (C. F. 91080720682), directed by Professor **Remo Ruffini**,

and

State Committee of Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter referred to as RA MES SCS), located in Yerevan (Armenia), Orbeli Brothers 22, chaired by Professor **Samvel Haroutiunian**,

and

National Academy of Science of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter referred to as the RA NAS) located in Yerevan (Armenia), Marshal Baghramian Avenue 24, chaired by Academician **Radik Martirosyan**,

Hereafter referred to as 'Parties', will collaborate on the creation of an ICRANet Center in Yerevan (hereafter referred to as ICRANet-Yerevan), initially to be located at the RA NAS headquarter and associated institutes, to foster the advancement of relativistic astrophysics and basic sciences in Armenia in collaboration with the ICRANet Members and with institutes associated with ICRANet.

The Parties will collaborate on the Parliamentary approval of the Seat Agreement of ICRANet-Yerevan.

The collaboration will take place along the following principles:

### ***I. Scientific Objectives***

ICRANet-Yerevan will operate in areas of Relativistic Astrophysics and Cosmology, in the theoretical and observational fields, following ICRANet activities and the creation of infrastructure following the long tradition and potential in Armenia.

### ***II. Representation***

In order to coordinate the activities of this Agreement, ICRANet, the RA MES SCS and the RA NAS will create a ICRANet-Yerevan Steering Committee, composed of Director of ICRANet who will chair the ICRANet-Yerevan Steering Committee, as well as one member from ICRANet Steering Committee, one from Scientific Committee of ICRANet and from the Armenian side the Chairman of RA MES SCS, the President of NAS RA and a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

### ***III. ICRANet-Yerevan Director and Staffing***

Initially ICRANet-Yerevan will recruit 3 scientists, 1 system administrator and 1 secretary including the Director of ICRANet-Yerevan, following the national rules. They will be appointed after signing the present Agreement.

The Director of ICRANet-Yerevan and Staffing will be proposed, selected and voted by the ICRANet-Yerevan Steering Committee.

The Director of ICRANet-Yerevan will implement the decisions of the Steering Committee and of the Scientific Committee of ICRANet.

### ***IV. Level and modalities of the ICRANet-Yerevan activities***

ICRANet-Yerevan will be involved in training and research at post-graduate and post-doctoral levels. Special attention will be devoted to foster research in regional scientific centers.

The activity of the ICRANet-Yerevan will include organization of schools, courses, workshops, and conferences in areas of competence of the ICRANet-Yerevan combined with an active visiting program.

### ***V. The Role of ICRANet***

ICRANet will be the legal representative of the ICRANet-Yerevan. It will participate in a decision-making capacity in the creation and operation of the ICRANet-Yerevan.

ICRANet will provide an international support for the operations of the ICRANet-Yerevan.

ICRANet will cooperate in fund raising, in the organization of activities at all levels and sponsoring of visitors from the countries of the region.

ICRANet will extend the IRAP-PhD program to the interested Universities of Armenia. ICRANet will guarantee that the best teaching and research facilities will be at the disposal of the ICRANet-Yerevan graduate students and of the visiting Faculty. In particular, ICRANet will foster exchanges with students and researchers of ICRANet-Yerevan. They will be allowed to use the facilities and structures of the ICRANet Seats, in Rome (Italy), Pescara (Italy), Nice (France), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and from there to collaborate with European Universities. The Students will be registered in all the Universities and Research Institutions of the IRAP PhD program.

ICRANet will implement annual mobility programs providing visits of researchers of ICRANet-Yerevan to the other ICRANet Seats.

ICRANet will help to build scientific data center in ICRANet-Yerevan, providing computer facilities and transfer data from ground and space based observatories.

#### *VI The Role of RA MES SCS*

Each year, the RA MES SCS within the frames of basic funding scheme of scientific and scientific-technical activity will provide financial support to ICRANet-Yerevan, based on the annual program of the latter.

#### *VII. The Role of RA NAS*

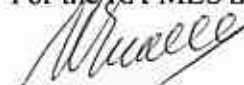
The RA NAS will provide rooms at the RA NAS headquarter and associated institutes for ICRANet-Yerevan to operate.

The RA NAS will coordinate the scientific activities as carried by ICRANet-Yerevan and will foster cooperation between ICRANet-Yerevan and the RA NAS research institutions.

The RA NAS will approve the ICRANet-Yerevan development strategy and annual programs.

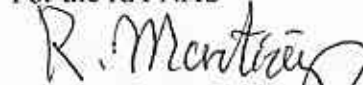
Done in Yerevan on July 25, 2013, in 3 original copies, each in Armenian and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English version shall prevail.

For the RA MES SCS



Samvel Haroutiunian  
Chairman

For the RA NAS



Radik Martirosyan  
President

For the ICRANet



Remo Ruffini  
Director