

Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism

Consortium Agreement – Amended 09 September 2016

<u>General Dispositions</u>
Art. 1 Name, legal basis and duration
¹ Globethics.net Foundation and the World Council of Churches (via its program area for Ecumenical Theological Education ETE) are founding institutions of the Consortium for a Global Digital Library for Theology and Ecumenism. They invite other institutions as consortium members.
² GlobeTheoLib (GTL) is the name of the Global Digital Library for Theology and Ecumenism.
³ GlobeTheoLib Consortium (GTLC) is the name of the group of institutions supporting and building GTL as a project.
⁴ GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee (GTLCC) is the project group representing the Consortium.
⁵ GlobeTheoLib Participants (GTLP) are registered individuals and institutions who use and contribute to GTL services.
⁶ GlobeTheoLib Partners (GTLPa) are institutions who support GTL in funding, content or technology.
⁷ GlobeTheoLib is legally a project of Globethics.net Foundation (GE), constituted pursuant to Art. 80 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code and with its legal domicile in Geneva/Grand Saconnex, Switzerland.
⁸ The duration of GlobeTheoLib is indefinite. The first project phase is three years (2011-2013). Subsequent project phases are agreed by the GTLC upon the proposal of the Project Leadership as defined in Art. 7
Art. 2 Purpose
¹ The purpose of GlobeTheoLib is:
a) to provide and enhance online access to theological knowledge and resources for theological education and research globally, but with a special focus on Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central- and Eastern Europe and on those who have not sufficient and affordable access;
b) to provide online library content for registered participants with the following characteristics: as full text, for free or at low cost, available in all places with internet access, in two ways (download and submit), multilingual, one portal, with a special focus on the Global South;
c) to strengthen ecumenical orientation and implement ecumenical working principles in order to enhance access for all Christian traditions;
d) to serve ecumenical dialogue, facilitate international exchange and enhance ecumenical research between the different contextual theologies in institutions of theological education and in networks for theological research worldwide; and
e) to create synergies with the global online ethics library of Globethics.net by being part of the same platform.

² GlobeTheoLib is exclusively non-profit in nature and shall not engage in for-profit activities.

Art. 3 Participants

¹ GlobeTheoLib is open to all persons and institutions who share its goals and who register. GlobeTheoLib Participants are individuals and institutions who registered and use GTL services. Categories (subgroups) of participants with specific tasks, obligations and rights may be defined by the Consortium Committee which can lead to restricted access to certain categories of content and functionalities.

² Institutional Participants such as theological libraries, faculties, universities, churches, ecumenical institutions and professional associations have specific rights and obligations which are defined by the Consortium Committee in separate rules.

Art. 4 Consortium: Members and Tasks

Members:

¹ The Consortium is constituted by the two founding institutions (Article 1 alinea 1) and the signing members. There are no individual members. The following institutions and sectors shall be considered to be represented as members (with a balanced composition of the different world regions): a) theological educational networks/institutions; b) theological library associations; c) associations of theological publishers; d) donor institutions; and e) regional or global ecumenical or confessional councils/federations of churches.

² The Consortium members are approved by the Project Leadership representing Globethics.net Foundation and the World Council of Churches (WCC) for a period of three years. The mandate is renewed automatically for a further three year period unless notice is given by the member or not renewed by the Globethics.net Foundation and the WCC.

³ The Consortium members pay an annual membership contribution. The contribution is related to the financial capacities and non-financial contributions of each member. It is mutually agreed between Globethics.net Foundation/WCC and the member.

Tasks:

⁴ The task of the Consortium is to support GlobeTheoLib by conceptual and strategic guidance, networking and promotion of GlobeTheoLib.

⁵ The Consortium seeks cooperation with other networks to implement the tasks.

Organization

Art. 5 Consortium Committee: Composition

¹ The GlobeTheoLib Consortium Committee is composed of a minimum of six persons, maximum one person per consortium member. These persons represent the consortium member institutions supporting GlobeTheoLib with their expertise, networks and funds.

² The Consortium Committee members are appointed by Globethics.net Foundation and WCC for a period of three years. The mandate can be renewed.

³ The President and Vice-president of the Consortium Committee are ex officio the Globethics.net Foundation and the WCC representative.

Art. 6 Consortium Committee: Powers and Meetings

¹ *Powers:* The Consortium Committee discusses and decides matters concerning the concept and strategy of GlobeTheoLib. More specifically it decides on:

a) criteria for annual member contributions (in line with Article 4 par 3). They are decided

each year;
b) the strategies for library content, partnerships with stakeholders, technological development, fundraising, promotion/marketing and services;
c) the rules and regulations for categories of individual and institutional participants
d) the internal rules and regulations;
e) the creation of committees;
f) the draft annual budget, annual accounts and annual report to be submitted to the Globethics.net Board of Foundation for approval;
g) regular evaluations of the GlobeTheoLib project.
² <i>Meetings</i> : The Consortium Committee normally meets every 12 to 18 months.
³ <i>Decisions</i> : The Consortium Committee makes decisions with a simple majority of the members present. Decisions can also be taken by electronic means. The decisions have to be coherent with Globethics.net Foundation's library and network policies as well as with the basic principles and constitutional goals of WCC. Globethics.net Foundation as well as WCC have the right of veto, especially if decisions are in contradiction or include high financial or reputational risks for either Globethics.net Foundation or WCC.
⁴ <i>Advisors</i> : The Consortium Committee can invite individuals with expertise in specific fields to the meetings. Advisors have no voting rights.
Art. 7 Partners
GlobeTheoLib has cooperation agreements with various partner organisations, to ensure mutually beneficial cooperation. There are various types of partners: Regional Partners, Scientific Partners, Library Partners, Networking Partners, Funding partners, Service Partners, Project Partners, Media Partners.
Art. 8 Project Leadership: Composition, Powers and Meetings
¹ <i>Composition</i> : The Project Leadership (PL) is composed of Globethics.net Foundation represented by the Executive Director, and the WCC represented by the Programme Executive for Ecumenical Theological Education. The President of the PL is the Executive Director of Globethics.net Foundation. The Globethics.net Programme Executive Online Library serves as the Secretary with consultative voice.
² <i>Powers</i> : The PL decides on the implementation of the GlobeTheoLib strategies and decisions of the Consortium. More specifically it is responsible for:
a) the appointment and supervision of staff and committees; and
b) the management of the project.
³ <i>Meetings</i> : The PL meets as necessary, but at least four times a year.
⁴ <i>Advisors</i> : The Project Leadership can invite individuals with expertise in specific fields to its meetings or the Consortium Committee meetings. Advisors have no voting rights.
Art. 9 Staff
¹ <i>Employment</i> : staff is employed by Globethics.net Foundation and based at its secretariat.
² Staff can also be seconded for a period of time by consortium members or other partners and work in different places of the world where appropriate.
³ <i>Tasks</i> : Staff executes the decisions of the Consortium Committee and the Project Leadership and submits proposals to the Project Leadership.
Art. 10 Advisory Committees
¹ Advisory Committees can be built for specific tasks and projects.

² The Consortium Committee decides on creation and mandate of Advisory Committees, the Project Leadership appoints its members.
Art. 11 Funds
The GlobeTheoLib project looks for funding resources from the following:
a) membership fees and contributions from the consortium members and institutional participants;
b) donations from individuals and institutions/foundations; and
income from services and other sources.
Art. 12 Auditor
¹ The Auditor of Globethics.net Foundation audits the GlobeTheoLib project accounts.
² The Auditor must be independent and not be engaged in any other contractual relationship with the Consortium except auditing.
Art. 13 Accounts
¹ The accounts of GlobeTheoLib must be kept annually from 1 January to 31 December. The accounting is done by Globethics.net with a separate project account.
² The audited annual project accounts are to be submitted by the Project Leadership to the Globethics.net Board of Foundation for approval. They are part of the Globethics.net Annual Accounts. They are published and must be presented to the oversight authority (Swiss Confederation) at the latest six months after the close of the fiscal year.
Art. 14 Compensation
¹ Members of the Consortium Committee and Advisory Committees serve on a pro bono basis (volunteers) and are only reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred.
² Exceptionally, individual members of the Consortium Committee or Advisory Committees may be granted appropriate compensation for special mandates based on their expertise.
³ The Rules on Expenses (Article 6 par 1d) regulate the details and must be coherent with the rules on expenses of Globethics.net Foundation.
III <u>Concluding Provisions</u>
Art. 15 Withdrawal from the Consortium
A Consortium member can withdraw their membership from the Consortium by giving nine months notice before the end of the calendar year. The annual contribution has to be paid for the full year.
Art. 16 Liability
¹ The business of GlobeTheoLib is done by and in the name of Globethics.net Foundation. The Foundation as legal project holder (Article 1 par 7) is liable towards third parties (Swiss Code of Obligations, Article 543 par 3).
² The financial liability of WCC and the Consortium members is limited to their contribution.
Art. 17 Amendment and Dissolution of the Agreement
¹ The agreement can be modified with mutual consent of the Consortium members. It has to be ratified by the Executive Director of Globethics.net Foundation.
² If the Consortium or Globethic.net Foundation is no longer able to pursue the purpose of the Agreement, the Consortium may submit to Globethics.net Foundation a motion for the dissolution of GlobeTheoLib. The Board of Foundation, after consultation with WCC, decides with a two thirds majority.
³ Residual assets shall revert to the Globethics.net library project or to another non-profit, tax-

exempt institution or project with identical or similar goals. The Consortium Committee and the Globethics.net Board of Foundation have to approve it.

⁴ Disbursement of residual assets to members of the Consortium is excluded.

The Consortium Agreement is signed by the following member institutions:

<i>Globethics.net Foundation Geneva, Switzerland</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dr. Obiora Ike Executive Director</i>
<i>World Council of Churches Geneva, Switzerland</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit General Secretary</i>
<i>Institution and Country</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Person and Function</i>