LETTER OF INTENT

During the meeting in Berlin on 30 June 2017, representatives and members of grassroots and crowdsourcing think tanks Polis180, foraus, Argo, Agora and groups in Vienna and Brussels expressed their commitment to work closely together around a number of shared values and principles. They intend to exchange information and best practices, establish common projects and facilitate cooperation between their members.

The cooperation occurs within the Open Think Tank Network (OpenTTN). All representatives present expressed their intention to further develop this network through cooperation towards the goal of establishing a formal organisation - a unique global network of crowdsourcing think tanks, based on a shared identity - within the next few years.

Preamble

The OpenTTN unites open think tanks from all over the world, who are committed to developing constructive, coherent and future-oriented policy solutions with the objective of fostering a culture of open debate and discussions around highly relevant issues in international affairs.

The OpenTTN facilitates cooperation between participating think tanks and its individual members to create policy solutions relevant across national borders.

The OpenTTN uses new tools to connect our members from around the world, allowing them to collaborate by digital means and offers a highly innovative platform to target our audiences.

The OpenTTN develops future-oriented policy solutions which reach beyond election cycles. We base our research on evidence and analytical methods. We create bridges between the media, society, academia and politics.
The OpenTTN aims to render complex issues more understandable for the general public and to create opportunities to participate in political debates outside of traditional fora. We also support the involvement of individuals and groups who are currently underrepresented in the political discourse, including young people.

The OpenTTN values and respects democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and our work takes into consideration human welfare and sustainability.

The OpenTTN aspires for its member think tanks to have a diverse membership and leadership with regard to gender, religion, sexual orientation, identity, ethnic background and nationality.

**Common Principles**

Each entity is a unique think tank tailored to its local, regional and national context.

Each think tank develops an interdisciplinary problem solving capacity and seeks innovation in content and form. Our think tanks develop new, participatory and innovative methods to develop ideas, engage in discussions and present their results.

Each think tank is open and participatory. Our think tanks have a member-based, grassroots structure and use crowdsourcing methods to attract talents and develop the best solutions possible. Transparency, accountability to our members and openness should broaden participation, engage diverse perspectives and encourage a vivid and open debating culture.

Each think tank works towards solutions to challenges that are relevant across national borders.

Each think tank is non-partisan and always retains independent control over its output and events, regardless of the source of funding.

Our think tanks are non-profit organizations. Content is generally made available for free to everyone.

**Cooperation**

All think tanks part of the OpenTTN commit to cooperate on the following basis:

- Naming at least two people for the international network, one of which should be at board level
- These people have regular exchanges and the main responsibility within the respective think tank to develop the network further
● Facilitating cooperation for publications and projects by members
● Facilitating the virtual and physical interaction of members and the operative team
● Supporting the exchange of best practices by members and the operative team
● Supporting groups intending to build up new think tanks in other countries
● Contributing to at least an annual international meeting with all think tanks which are part of the network
● Using synergies to facilitate administrative tasks and develop and/or implement new IT solutions e.g. a common crowd-sourcing solution
● Sharing relevant contact information
● Communicating internationally relevant publications, events and projects by a common communication effort as well as through channels unique to each think tank
● Aspiring to raise funds for the network as well as specific projects implemented by the network
● Intending to bring the network to the next level (e.g. through a formal organization) within the next year, in which all think tanks are represented equally and intend to contribute equally whilst operating within their means, to the success of the network. At the time of the foundation, the name, design and decision-making procedures will be decided.

Signed by Members and Representatives of Polis180, foraus, Argo, Agora and Ponto.