TERM OF FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT (TFIC)

You are being invited to participate as a volunteer in the Tracker filling stage of the Pathfinder Project of the host study _____, in which you participated. Please read this form carefully and calmly, taking the opportunity to clarify your doubts. If you have any questions before or after signing it, you can clarify them with the researcher. You will not be penalised or harmed if you do not agree to take part or withdraw your consent at any time. The Pathfinder Project will be carried out under the responsibility of the researcher _____, subject to the following aspects:

Objective and justification: the project aims to map the process of the activities carried out in the host study's research; identify solutions to address barriers in the data cycle/health research that are shared openly with the community, increasing equity and best practice and reducing duplication of knowledge; accelerate the data cycle/health research for the host study and enable the generation of new evidence, data, and ideas.

Confidentiality: The confidentiality and privacy of the information you provide will be guaranteed. The answers given in the interviews will be used exclusively by the project and, therefore, will not be identified in the results. It should be noted, however, that the data will be analysed within the study's scope, respecting the content's integrity and confidentiality. If your report or parts of your answers are included in the documents resulting from the research, we will not openly mention your name, position, and/or institution. However, there is a possibility that readers will identify you based on your unique experiences and/or direct participation in the establishment of agreements in the border region.

Inclusion criteria: People who work and/or have worked in the host study.

Voluntary participation: Participation is voluntary, i.e., it is not compulsory, and you have full autonomy to decide whether to participate, as well as to withdraw your participation at any time. You will not be penalised in any way if you decide not to consent to your participation or to withdraw from it.

Procedures: Volunteer participants will be given any clarification and information about the project and the methodology adopted at any time. Their participation will consist of an individual or group interview guided by a semi-structured script. The conversation/interview will be recorded (audio and/or video) and transcribed, and the relevant comments will be used throughout the Pathfinder project. You will also be asked to answer questions about essential personal characteristics (such as age, gender, level of education, etc.).

Storing the data and material collected in the project: The transcripts will be stored in digital files, but only the researchers will have access to them. At the end, all the material will be kept in a repository.

Risks and discomfort: During the interview, the risks of your participation are minimal and may consist of discomfort or embarrassment due to the content of the questions. However, as an unprecedented piece of research, this thesis can contribute to democratising access to information and knowledge in the field of international cooperation in health.

Benefits: The interviewee will not receive any direct benefits from taking part; however, the results of the practices developed will be made available.

Consent to participate: I agree to the terms of participation in the study described above. I have been duly informed of the research objectives and procedures. The researchers have assured me that they will provide any further clarification I may require during the study and that I have the right to withdraw from participation up to one month before the publication date, without my withdrawal implying any damage to my person, and that I will be guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality of data relating to my identification, as well as that my participation in this study will not bring me any economic benefit.

Contact: If you have any questions about the project, please contact the researcher [name].

Address: _____;

E-mail: _____

I declare that I have understood the project's aims and benefits and received a copy of this form. I freely and spontaneously give my consent to take part.

Participant's information

Name: _____

Telephone contact: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Responsible researcher's information

Name: _____

Signature: _____

[City/Country], [date], [month], [year].