



Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation Matters

1. Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between:

- **The Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning Associations (REHVA)**, which represents 24 member associations in Europe, encompassing more than 120.000 professionals in heating, air-conditioning, ventilation, refrigeration, energy performance of buildings, decarbonization and other related topics; REHVA is officially registered as a Not-for-Profit Entity under Belgian Law, headquartered at 40 Rue Washington, Brussels, Belgium
- and
- **The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)** which is an international in-person membership organization (with about 54,000 members), dedicated to serving humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, refrigeration and their allied fields, engaging input from its members worldwide and others to support research and develop standards for international application; ASHRAE is headquartered at 180 Technology Parkway, Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30092 USA

2. Preamble

- 2.1. REHVA and ASHRAE have had a long relationship of cooperation for over 50 years. ASHRAE has always had members in Europe, and few were integrated in the REHVA governance. Similarly, REHVA has had individual members of their national associations who were integrated into ASHRAE governance.
- 2.2. REHVA and ASHRAE have had joint task forces on different topics of worldwide interest like COVID19, decarbonization etc.
- 2.3. REHVA and ASHRAE had been participating actively many times to their respective conferences (CLIMA, CLIMAMED, ASHRAE Winter and Summer conferences etc.) with presentations, workshops, courses etc.
- 2.4. Both organizations enter this MoU with a positive and constructive attitude, understanding that a favorable outcome will strengthen both parties and ultimately lead to technological advancements for the benefit of humanity.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. The strong foundation of this MoU is the parties' common belief that, by working together, both organizations can amplify their abilities to better serve their members and the entire society while simultaneously eliminating duplication and conflicts.

3.2. The purpose of this MoU is to strengthen the partnership between the REHVA and ASHRAE, by promoting consistent and tangible actions to enhance cooperation.

3.3. This MoU will also encourage both organizations to better address major issues facing our industry worldwide, including adaptation to a rapidly evolving climate condition and technology in the framework of mutual information exchange.

4. Objectives

4.1. The primary objectives of this MoU are to:

4.1.1. start a new era of potential cooperation, by investigating first collaborative activities and by agreeing to build their cooperation scheme with mutual benefit

4.1.2. promote mutual information exchange and eliminate duplication of efforts

4.1.3. address major global industry issues collaboratively

4.1.4. explore and enhance communication, cooperation, and, where applicable, coordination between REHVA and ASHRAE at the following levels:

a. globally, between ASHRAE and REHVA at the Society and Board levels

b. at European level, between ASHRAE Region XIV and REHVA

c. at a country level, between REHVA member association (MA) and the relevant ASHRAE Chapter(s)

d. individually, among members of the REHVA MA and ASHRAE members, in the frame of working groups, task forces etc.

5. Cooperation principles

5.1. The principles listed here below are essential to ensure a clear, mutual understanding of the expectations, commitments, and goals of the partnership at all levels, helping to establish a solid foundation for a productive and harmonious partnership and ensuring that both parties are aligned in their approach and committed to achieving mutual benefits.

5.2. Mutual Respect and Trust

Both parties agree to conduct their relationship based on mutual respect and trust, by acknowledge each other's strengths, expertise, and contributions.

5.3. Equity and Reciprocity

Both parties agree to ensure that the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperation are shared fairly, and to commit to reciprocal contributions and exchanges of knowledge and resources.

5.4. Transparency

Both parties agree to commit to open and honest communication regarding all aspects of the cooperation and to share relevant and non-confidential information promptly and accurately to facilitate collaboration.

5.5. Shared Goals and Objectives

Both parties agree to establish common goals and objectives that both parties aim to achieve through the cooperation, by aligning activities and initiatives with these shared objectives.

5.6. Complementarity

Both parties agree to leverage the complementary strengths and capabilities of each party to achieve better outcomes, by avoiding duplication of efforts by clearly defining roles and responsibilities.

5.7. Flexibility and Adaptability

Both parties agree to be flexible and adaptable in responding to changing circumstances and needs, by allowing always room for adjustments in plans and activities as necessary.

5.8. Commitment to Excellence

Both parties agree to strive for high standards of quality and excellence in all joint activities and initiatives, by encourage continuous improvement and innovation.

5.9. Accountability

Both parties agree to hold each party accountable for fulfilling their commitments and responsibilities, establishing mechanisms for monitoring progress and addressing any issues that arise.

5.10. Sustainability

Both parties agree to ensure that cooperative efforts contribute to sustainable development and long-term benefits, considering environmental, social, and economic impacts in planning and implementation.

5.11. Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusion

Both parties agree to respect and value the cultural diversity and perspectives of each party, by promoting inclusive practices that encourage broad participation and engagement.

5.12. Legal and Ethical Standards

Both parties agree to adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards, by ensuring that all activities are conducted with integrity and in accordance with best practices.

5.13. Innovation and Creativity

Both parties agree to encourage innovative thinking and creative solutions to address shared challenges, by supporting joint research, development, and dissemination of new ideas and technologies.

5.14. Periodic Review and Evaluation

Both parties agree to regularly review and evaluate the progress and outcomes of the cooperation, by using feedback to make improvements and adapt strategies as needed.

5.15. Resource Sharing

Both parties agree to share resources, expertise, and knowledge to maximize the impact of the cooperation, ensuring fair and equitable access to shared resources.
face-to-face or electronically, as conditions warrant.

6. Areas of cooperation and potential activities

6.1. ASHRAE and REHVA agree to cooperate in the areas listed in **ANNEX 1**, where potential activities are also proposed.

6.2. For 2024-2026, priority areas of cooperation and collaboration are listed in **ANNEX 2**.

7. Implementation

7.1. To help the implementation process, REHVA and ASHRAE will form a Liaison Committee (LC) to carry out the work with their official bodies' approval. The Liaison Committee will be composed by at least 3 members per party, chosen amongst their respective Board members, MAs and secretariats.

7.2. To achieve the objectives and to respect the MoU principles, ASHRAE and REHVA will:

7.2.1. hold yearly meetings of the LC, either face-to-face or online, at least in conjunction with the ASHRAE Winter Conference and the REHVA General Assembly, respectively, or whenever needed; the main purposes of the aforementioned meetings will be to ensure ongoing advancement and monitoring of collaborative projects underway and to keep each respective organization informed on major or new initiatives

7.2.2. Discuss new opportunities for collaboration

7.2.3. hold additional meetings, either face-to-face or online, as conditions warrant

7.2.4. ensure that all publications are available to members at member rates

- 7.2.5. promote the cooperation between ASHRAE and REHVA Committees
- 7.2.6. sponsor and jointly organize training and educational activities
- 7.3. The Parties shall also:
 - 7.3.1. promote development of harmonized European, ASHRAE and international (ISO) standards
 - 7.3.2. promote communication and information exchange between the organizations and their respective members through announcements in journals, websites, and other communication channels
 - 7.3.3. promote cooperation in the frame of and participation to conferences and exhibitions globally

8. Participation in other MoUs and development of international bodies

- 8.1. Each organization remains free to participate in any other MoU or international initiative with the same goal and will inform each other of any such developments.
- 8.2. REHVA and ASHRAE agree to join efforts, in conjunction with other organizations, to help develop the Indoor Environmental Quality - Global Alliance (IEQ - GA) or other similar international organizations.

9. Duration, termination and renewal

- 9.1. This Memorandum of Understanding will commence on the date of signature and will remain in effect for a period of three years unless terminated earlier by either party with six months' written notice.
- 9.2. Renewal of this MoU shall be automatic for identical successive periods, with the corresponding updating of Annexes 1 and 2, if deemed appropriate by both parties. If any of the parties does not wish to extend the cooperation, it must inform the other party in writing at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the then current MoU.

10. Dispute Resolution

- 10.1. Any disputes arising from this MoU shall be resolved amicably through mutual consultation. Failing which, disputes shall be referred to mediation or arbitration as agreed by both parties.

11. Confidentiality

- 11.1. Both parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of any sensitive information exchanged under this MoU and to use such information solely for the purposes outlined herein.

12. Amendments

- 12.1. Any amendments to this MoU must be made in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both parties.

13. Indemnity and Liability

- 13.1. Each party shall indemnify and hold harmless the other party against any losses, damages, or expenses arising from any breach of this MoU. Neither party shall be liable for any indirect or consequential damages arising under this MoU.

14. Force Majeure

- 14.1. Neither party shall be liable for any failure to perform obligations under this MoU if such failure results from circumstances beyond reasonable control, including but not limited to

natural disasters, acts of war, or government actions.

15. Severability

15.1. If any provision of this MoU is found to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

16. Entire Agreement

16.1. This MoU constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, agreements, and understandings, whether written or oral.

17. Counterparts

17.1. This MoU may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

18. Data Protection and Privacy

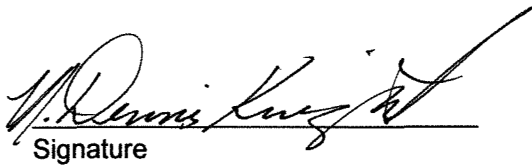
18.1. Both parties agree to comply with all applicable data protection and privacy laws. REHVA, as an EU entity, will adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any personal data exchanged shall be handled in accordance with these laws to ensure privacy protection.

18.2. When transferring personal data from REHVA to ASHRAE or any non-EU entity, appropriate safeguards compliant with GDPR, such as Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs), will be implemented to ensure equivalent data protection. ASHRAE agrees to respect GDPR principles when handling personal data received from REHVA.

18.3. When transferring personal data from ASHRAE to REHVA, appropriate safeguards compliant with any such USA regulations or institutional policies will be implemented to ensure equivalent data protection. REHVA agrees to respect such principles when handling personal data received from ASHRAE.

FOR ASHRAE

Dennis Knight
ASHRAE President, 2024-2025

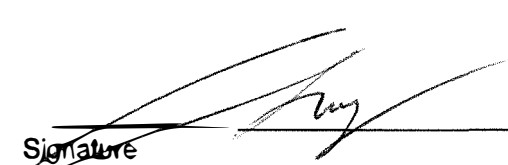


Signature

2/9/2025
Date

FOR REHVA

Cătălin-Ioan Lungu
REHVA President, 2022-2025



Signature

02/10/2025
Date

ANNEX 1 to the REHVA-ASHRAE MoU

An annual work plan can be developed by the LC under the principles of the REHVA-ASHRAE MoU in force, based on the following:

LIST OF POTENTIAL COOPERATION TOPICS BETWEEN REHVA AND ASHRAE

(this list can be adjusted any time by the mutual agreement of the parties)

1. Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- a) Joint research projects on HVAC&R systems designed for extreme weather conditions
- b) Development of guidelines for resilient building designs
- c) Organization of workshops and seminars on climate resilience strategies

2. Energy Efficiency, use of renewables and decarbonization

- i. Collaborative development of energy-efficient technologies and practices
- ii. Joint campaigns and projects promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy sources integration with HVAC&R systems, and decarbonization of buildings
- iii. Co-hosting conferences focused on net-zero energy buildings
- iv. Development of guidelines for renewable energy use in buildings
- v. Hosting workshops on energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and their applications, and decarbonization

3. Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Improvement for healthy buildings

- a) Joint research on the health impacts of indoor environmental quality
- b) Development of new standards for indoor environment quality management
- c) Creation of educational programs and webinars on IEQ best practices
- d) Research on the impact of HVAC&R systems on occupant health
- e) Development of wellness standards for indoor environments
- f) Educational initiatives on health-focused building design

4. Digitalization and Smart Buildings

- a) Joint development of smart building technologies and IoT applications (Internet of Things)
- b) Research on the integration of digital tools in HVAC&R systems
- c) Creation of a shared platform for data exchange and smart building management

5. Sustainable Building Practices

- a) Promotion of sustainable, decarbonized materials and practices in building design
- b) Development of joint guidelines for sustainable and decarbonized buildings
- c) Organizing competitions and awards for healthy and sustainable building projects

6. Education and Training

- a) Development of joint certification programs for HVAC&R professionals
- b) Organization of international student competitions
- c) Creation of joint educational modules and online courses

7. Policy and Advocacy

- a) Joint advocacy for international policies promoting energy efficiency and sustainability
- b) Collaboration on white papers and policy briefs
- c) Engaging with policymakers through joint lobbying efforts

8. Standards Development and Harmonization

- a) Collaborative efforts to harmonize European and international standards
- b) Participation in international standardization committees
- c) Joint publications on standards and best practices

9. Innovation and Research

- a) Joint funding and support for innovative research projects
- b) Establishment of research grants and fellowships
- c) Co-authoring research papers and technical documents

10. Public Awareness and Outreach

- a) Joint public awareness campaigns on the importance of HVAC&R systems
- b) Development of informational materials for the public
- c) Engagement through social media and other digital platforms

11. Global Conference and Exhibition Participation

- a) Joint organization of global conferences and exhibitions
- b) Coordinated participation in international trade shows
- c) Joint presentation of new technologies and innovations

12. Resource Sharing and Collaboration Tools

- a) Development of a shared digital library of resources and tools
- b) Creation of collaborative online platforms for project management
- c) Sharing of technical documents, case studies, and research findings

13. Technical Committees and Task Forces

- a) Formation of joint technical committees on specific topics
- b) Regular meetings and collaboration between technical experts
- c) Development of joint technical reports and guidelines

IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

To facilitate these cooperative activities, REHVA and ASHRAE can:

1. Establish a Liaison Committee (LC):
 - i) Comprising at least 3 members from both organizations to oversee and coordinate activities.
 - ii) Hold yearly meetings and additional meetings as needed; both organizations will schedule a LC meeting during the ASHRAE winter conference or REHVA annual meeting
2. Develop an Annual Work Plan:
 - i) Define specific initiatives and activities for the upcoming year
 - ii) Regularly review and update the work plan based on progress and feedback
3. Promote Communication and Information Exchange:
 - i) Utilize journals, websites, and other communication channels for information

dissemination

- ii) Ensure accessibility of publications to members at member rates

4. Organize Joint Events and Training:

- i) Sponsor and organize training sessions, workshops, and conferences
- ii) Encourage participation from both organizations in these events
- iii) A workshop will be organized jointly by REHVA and ASHRAE during every ASHRAE winter conference and CLIMA congress

5. Monitor Progress and Outcomes:

- i) Establish mechanisms for monitoring the progress of collaborative projects
- ii) Regularly evaluate the outcomes and make necessary adjustments

By focusing on these innovative fields and implementing the outlined activities, REHVA and ASHRAE can strengthen their cooperation, drive industry advancements, and contribute to global sustainability efforts.

ANNEX 2 to the REHVA-ASHRAE MoU

The following priorities are defined for the period 2024-2026:

1. **Organize** at least ONE dedicated REHVA Technical Session at the ASHRAE Winter Conferences and at least ONE dedicated ASHRAE Technical Session at the CLIMA 2025 conference.

2. **Develop** common initiatives focused on the following topics:

Energy Efficiency, use of renewables and decarbonization

- i. Joint campaigns and projects promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy sources integration with HVAC&R systems, and decarbonization of building.
- ii. Co-hosting conferences focused on decarbonized and/or net-zero energy buildings.
- iii. Co-hosting one or more workshops on energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and their applications, and decarbonization in Europe.

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Improvement for healthy buildings

- i. Creation of educational programs and webinars on IEQ best practices
- ii. Development of wellness standards for indoor environments
- iii. Develop educational initiatives on health-focused building design