

**PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
AND  
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION  
FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: the Parties),

- expressing their desire for further developing and deepening of the existing friendly relations;
- aiming at enhancing their cooperation in the fields of science and education; and
- in accordance with the Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation signed on 13 June 1995 in Zagreb by the Governments of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bulgaria,

have agreed as follows:

**I. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE**

**Article 1**

**Scientific exchange**

The Parties will encourage the development of cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovations between scientific institutes, universities and other research organizations of the two countries.

The Parties will encourage the development of scientific cooperation by:

- financing up to five (5) joint research projects per year, taking into account their possibilities for involvement in the EU's scientific programme; the Parties will mutually agree on the fields and topics for the selection and financing of bilateral research projects;
- exchanging of scientists and experts that will be involved in the implementation of the joint projects referred to in Article 1 herein;
- exchanging of experience and publications in the fields of science and technology;
- joint organization of scientific seminars, roundtables etc.;
- encouraging of joint participation of partnering scientific institutions and universities of the two countries in projects under the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovations, 'Horizon 2020';

- any other mutually agreed forms of scientific and technological cooperation.

## **II. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

### **Article 2**

#### **Exchange of information**

The Parties will encourage the cooperation between institutions of secondary education and higher education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Croatia by:

- direct cooperation and contacts between universities and other higher education institutions with the aim of promoting Bulgarian and Croatian language and literature;
- exchange of data related to the structure and content of their education systems;
- direct cooperation between secondary schools aimed at establishing closer connections.

The Parties will encourage the cooperation in the fields of vocational and professional education and training as well as will exchange experience and information on excising good practices.

Interested parties will mutually agree on the extent of exchange, type of activity and terms of financing of the cooperation.

### **Article 3**

#### **Scholarships**

The Parties will exchange annually on a reciprocal basis:

- up to two (2) scholarships for undergraduate/graduate studies of the Bulgarian / Croatian language, literature, culture and history in duration of one (1) semester each;
- up to eight (8) months' scholarship per year for postgraduate studies and scientific research (not applicable to the fields of medicine, arts and sports). The minimum duration of these scholarships is one (1) month individually.

### **Article 4**

#### **Experts visits**

The Parties will consider the possibility of exchanging delegations of up to three (3) experts for the period of up to seven (7) days in the field of secondary and higher education for the purpose of getting acquainted with the educational systems of the two countries, as well as for negotiating and subsequent signing sector specific documents.

The Sending Party will cover travel expenses to the final destination and back.

The Receiving Party will cover travel expenses within its territory associated with the implementation of the work programme, including per diem and accommodation in accordance with its financial regulations, valid on the day of the guests' stay.

### **Article 5**

#### **Exchange of information**

The Parties will exchange data on scientific and educational events and will invite experts to participate in scientific congresses, conferences and symposia in the fields of education and science, including those organised in the framework of international organizations such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe or other initiatives.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Summer seminars in Bulgarian and Croatian languages**

Bulgarian party will each year grant to Croatian party up to two (2) scholarships for the participation in the summer seminar of the Bulgarian language and literature at the University of Sofia 'St. Kliment Ohridski' and up to two (2) scholarships for the participation in the summer seminar of the Bulgarian language and literature at the University of Veliko Tarnovo 'St. St. Cyril and Methodius'.

The Croatian party will each year grant to Bulgarian party four (4) scholarships for a summer course of the Croatian language and literature within the Zagreb Slavic School in Dubrovnik.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Lecturers of Bulgarian and Croatian language**

The Parties will support the learning and promotion of the Croatian and Bulgarian languages and literature at their universities. Taking this into consideration the Parties will continue to exchange lecturers for language, literature and culture, and invite instructors to give lectures in those fields.

The Parties will, on the basis of reciprocity, send lecturers for relevant languages to following universities:

- lecturer of Bulgarian language to the University of Zagreb;
- lecturer of Croatian language to the University of Sofia 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

The Parties will, on the basis of reciprocity, upon request and in accordance with their capacities, assist with sending lecturers to other universities in both countries.

### **III. FINAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 8**

##### **Joint Committee**

In order to ensure programming and the implementation of the present Programme, the Parties will establish a Joint Committee comprising up to 5 representatives and experts from both countries (hereinafter: the Committee).

The Committee will define the framework, procedure, financial and administrative terms and conditions for the implementation of accepted projects or cooperation in the field of education and science.

The details of those meetings will be agreed upon through direct communication of the Parties.

The Committee meetings will be held alternatively in Sofia and in Zagreb at a regular basis once a year or more often at request of either of the Parties.

The activity of the Committee shall be in accordance with the financial abilities of the two countries.

**Article 9**

**General and financial provisions**

Annex no. 1 (General Provisions) and Annex no. 2 (Financial Provisions) are an integral part of this Programme.

**Article 10**

**Final Provisions**

The present Programme will enter into force on the date of signing, and will remain in force until 31st December 2021. Upon mutual written consent between the Parties, the validity of this Programme may be extended until signing of a new Programme.

Each Party may notify in writing the other Party of its intention to terminate the Programme. In such case the Programme will terminate (6) six months after written notification has been received by the other Party.

The present Programme may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent and upon the request of one of the Parties. The adopted amendments or supplements will enter into force according to the procedures envisaged in the first paragraph of this Article.

Signed in \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_, in two originals, each in Bulgarian, Croatian, and English language, all of the texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation hereof, the English text shall prevail.

<p>FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA</p> <p>_____</p>
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**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Conditions for granting scholarships in accordance with Articles 3 and 6 of this Programme:
  - a) The Sending Party will provide the Receiving Party with a list of nominated candidates in accordance with Articles 3 and 6 of this Programme together with the required documents of the nominees not later than 31 March of the current year;
  - b) The Receiving Party will inform the Sending Party of the accepted nominees not later than 30 June of the current year.
  - c) The Sending Party will inform the Receiving Party of the exact day of arrival date of the participants in the summer school not later than 2 weeks prior to their arrival.
  
2. Conditions for sending lecturers of Bulgarian language and literature and Croatian language literature and appointed in accordance with Article 7 of this Programme:
  - a) The Sending Party will either propose to the Receiving Party at least two (2) nominees who meet the criteria of the Receiving Party for appointing a lecturer together with nominees' required documents or will approve the continuation of the posting of the current lecturer in the host country not later than 31 May of the year, prior the following academic year;
  - b) The Receiving Party will approve either the posting of a new lecturer or the continuation of the posting of the current lecturer not later than 30 June of the year, prior the following academic year;
  - c) Lecturers, without their family members, are posted for the period of at least one (1) academic year, with an opportunity of continuation of the posting in accordance with the valid national legislation of each country;
  - d) The Sending Party will provide the lecturer within its capacities with didactic books, literature and other books and material for the teaching process.
  
3. During their stay on the territory of the Receiving Party, the scholarship holders, the experts in exchange visits and the lecturers are entitled to medical aid in accordance with the EU legislation and social insurance, Regulation (EC) 883/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council of 29 April 2004 on coordination of social security systems (hereinafter: Regulation 883/04) and Regulation (EC) 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems (hereinafter: Regulation 987/09).
  
4. During their stay on the territory of the Receiving Party, the scholarship holders, the experts in exchange visits and the lecturers are entitled to medical support in accordance with Regulations 883/04 987/09, on the basis of the European health insurance card which should be issued by the respective institutions of the Sending Party prior arriving in the host country.

**FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

1. Financial conditions for exchange in accordance with Article 3 of this Programme / undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate studies or research:

The Receiving Party will exempt from tuition fees the students admitted under Article 3 of this Programme and will provide them with a monthly scholarship in accordance with its legislation in force. The Receiving Party will provide these students with opportunity for subsidized meals and accommodation in student's university lodgings.

The Sending Party or the candidate will cover their travel expenses to and from its final destination.

2. Financial conditions for exchange in accordance with Article 6 of this Programme / summer language seminars:

The Receiving Party will cover the expenses for:

- a) tuition fee;
- b) meals and accommodation in students dormitory;
- c) internal travel expenses arisen from the approved working programme.

The Sending Party or the candidate will cover their travel expenses to and from the venue of the seminar.

3. Financial conditions for exchange of lecturer in accordance with Article 7 of this Programme:

The Receiving Party will provide the lecturer for:

- a) monthly remuneration in accordance with its national legislation and in accordance with lecturer's title;
- b) free-of-charge individual accommodation in university's lodging or its equivalent for renting an apartment.

The Sending Party will cover the travel expenses of the lecturer to the destination of the host university and back once in an academic year.

4. Financial provisions in accordance with Article 8 of this Programme / the meetings of the Joint Committee:

Each Party will cover the travel expenses and accommodation of the working days for its representatives in the Committee.

5. Individuals hosted pursuant to Articles 3, 6 and 7 of this Programme will be exempt from payment of fees related to the stay in the country during their training.