

PROGRAM
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE FOR THE PERIOD
2018-2022

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred as 'The Parties')

-based on the provisions of the Agreement signed on April 25, 1994 on "Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of education, culture and science";

-guided by the desire for further development and strengthening of existing traditional friendly relations between the people of both countries;

-willing to develop and deepen the cooperation in the fields of Education and Science

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The parties agree upon this Program to cooperate in the fields of Education and Science in compliance with their national legislation and norms of International Law.

Article 2

The institutions responsible for the Program are:

On behalf of Bulgarian side: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria.

On behalf of Armenian side: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 3

The Parties shall ensure the exchange of the necessary information on the structure, content and organization of educational systems, as well as educational and scientific organizations with the aim of increasing the efficiency of the cooperation in the field of education.

Article 4

The parties shall implement exchange of educational programs on all levels of education, as well as shall support the development and implementation of joint educational programs.

Articles 5

With the aim of reinforcing interschool relations the Parties shall encourage the implementation of pupil exchange programs, as well as will initiate experience share in the field of secondary and preschool educations. To this end for the period of up to 10 days the Parties shall exchange 2 teachers from preschool education and 2 teachers from the secondary education system. The details shall be specified through diplomatic channels.

Article 6

The Parties shall support the establishment and development of direct links between the universities and research organizations of both countries in accordance with bilateral agreements signed between these organizations.

Article 7

Both Parties each year shall exchange on a reciprocal basis:

- Up to 4 student scholarships for a full term of education for a bachelor or master degree;
- Fellowships with total quota of 12 months for postgraduate education, specialization or research work of postgraduate students. Lectures and researchers with duration no less than one month"

All details shall be specified through diplomatic channels.

Article 8

The Parties shall test the language knowledge of the students, postgraduates and the researchers sent to study in the respective country. It is mandatory that postgraduates and researchers participating in this Program be fluent at least in one foreign language (Russian and English).

The proposed applicants for student scholarships, who have no proficiency in the language of the respective countries, shall be provided a specialized language teaching at no cost at the Departments for language teaching of the respective universities before the beginning of his/her professional education.

Article 9

Students of both Parties, who have received scholarship, shall not be allowed to change their specialty without the permission of the authorized body from his/her country.

Article 10

The receiving Party shall provide to the persons who have received scholarships on the ground of Article 7 the following:

- exemption of tuition fee;
- scholarship in accordance with the national legislation of the Receiving Party;
- accommodation in student hostel in accordance with the national legislation of the Receiving Party;
- food in student hostel under subsidies by the state conditions in accordance with the national legislation of the Receiving Party;
- medical care in accordance with the national legislation of the Receiving Party;
- access to libraries, archives, laboratories, etc.

The travel expenses to and from the capital city of the Receiving Party as well as the medical insurance shall be covered by the sending country or the candidate. The internal travel expenses related to the execution of the working program shall be covered by the Receiving Party.

The documents of the candidates proposed for the education under Article 7 should be received by the relevant institutions of both countries not later than month of May every year and the details shall be specified through diplomatic channels.

Article 11

The Parties shall support the teaching of subjects, related to Armenian and Bulgarian languages and literatures in their universities and shall cooperate on sending lecturers in Armenian language and literature and Bulgarian language and literature in the universities of both Parties, in case the exchange in question is required and possible.

Article 12

In case of lecturer exchange the Receiving Party through the universities shall provide:

- monthly salary in accordance with the effective legal provisions of the receiving country;
- accommodation in furnished lodging;
- medical care in accordance with the national legislation of the Receiving Party.

The travel expenses to and from the capital city of the Receiving Party as well as the medical insurance shall be covered by the sending country or the lecturer. The internal travel expenses related to the execution of the lecturer's work shall be covered by the Receiving Party.

Article 13

The Bulgarian Party shall receive up to (2) two Armenian students for participation in summer courses in Bulgarian language, literature and culture – one student in Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' and one student in Veliko Tarnovo University 'St. Cyril and Metodii'.

The Bulgarian Party shall provide full support to the Armenian participants – training, boarding and lodging, certificate for training and cultural program. The Armenian participants shall receive medical aid in accordance with the effective legislation in the country.

The Armenian Party or the candidates shall cover the travel expenses to the place where the course is held and the medical insurance.

Article 14

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of university lecturers, scientists, and researchers from the scientific organizations to disseminate their experience and achievements of their scientific and educational institutions in the field of higher education and science and technologies as well as will promote their participation in joint scientific projects. The details of exchange shall be specified directly by the respective universities and scientific institutes within the frame of their authority.

Article 15

To develop and extend the scientific and scientific –and – technical cooperation the respective scientific organization as well as universities of the Parties shall elaborate joint research programs and projects. The forms of exchanging and applying the results of scientific cooperation shall be specified in directly signed bilateral agreements between the relevant scientific organizations and universities in accordance with the national legislation of each of the Parties.

With the aim to strengthen and develop further the bilateral cooperation the Bulgarian Party in its capacity of a participating state under the EU Horizon 2020 Program and the Armenian Party having an observer status under the same Program agree to explore and use the opportunities of the biggest EU program for research and innovations.

Article 16

The Parties shall promote the mutual participation of both parties in international competitions as well as other events of the type.

Article 17

The Parties shall encourage the publications of articles and joint researches in education and scientific magazines of their countries as well as carrying out joint scientific conferences.

Article 18

With the aim of strengthening the mutual relations, sharing the experience as well as developing the cooperation the Parties shall organize annual exchange of expert groups in accordance with the financial opportunities of both parties.

Article 19

The children of the members of the respective diplomatic and consular missions shall study in the state secondary schools and higher educational establishments of the other Party free from tuition fees, with the exception of the medical and arts specialties, for the period of duration of the mandate of their parents. The students may study to acquire educational and qualification degree

'Bachelor' or 'Master'. The Receiving Party shall not pay scholarship and shall not provide accommodation in student dormitory.

Article 20

The Receiving Party shall exempt the citizens of the sending Party from paying taxes for receiving a residency status or extend their residency status in case the latter is connected with the implementation of this Program.

Article 21

The Parties may amend or supplement this Program upon mutual agreement by signing separate protocols inalienable from the current Program, and shall enter into force based on the order set forth by the current Program.

The Program in question does not exclude any other forms of cooperation and initiatives, which can be additionally specified through diplomatic channels.

Article 22

Any disputes arising between the Parties in connection with interpretation or application of the current Program shall be settled through negotiations and consultations.

Article 23

This Program shall enter into force upon the date of signing and shall remain effective till 31 December 2022, but shall be valid upon expiry of this period until signing of a new Program.

This Program revokes the Program between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in the field of education and science for the period 2009 – 2012, but the implementation of the joint initiatives and education activities in process shall continue until their completion.

Done on 20.... in the city of In two original copies in Bulgarian, Armenian, and English, all texts being equally authentic. Throughout the implementation of the Program if there arise any disagreement concerning the interpretation of the provisions of the Program the English text of the Program shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria For the Government of the Republic of Armenia
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