

PROGRAMME

**for Cooperation in the Fields of Higher Education and Science
between
the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria
and
the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary
for the period 2022-2024**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary (hereinafter referred to as „the Parties“):
on grounds of the Agreement for Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education and Science between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of Hungary signed on 05 May 1994 in Budapest, and in their ambition for complex development and deepening the cooperation in the fields of higher education and science, have agreed as it follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The Parties shall support:

- a) the direct cooperation based on mutual needs and interests of the higher education institutions and the research organizations at the higher education institutions,
- b) the direct cooperation of the state, public, church and private institutions and their initiatives based on new direct agreements in support of mutual understanding and approachment, encouraging the establishment of joint scientific organizations, foundations as well as the joint scientific research,
- c) the programmes of the European Union and Council of Europe for secondary education and higher education, and the cooperation within the Central European Initiative as well as the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS).

COOPERATION IN THE FIELD HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Article 2

The Parties shall encourage the direct collaboration of higher education institutions. They shall support bilateral contacts, exchange of experts, specializations in higher education institutions dealing with training of the language and culture of the other Party.

Article 3

The Parties shall exchange annually on a reciprocal basis:

- (1) Up to 5 students studying Bulgarian, respectively Hungarian language for a part-time study period with a duration of one semester (5 months),

(2) post-graduate students, researchers and teachers for a total duration of 10 months, in no less than 1 and no more than 3 months, who are fluent in the host country language or another language as agreed and upon invitation by the receiving higher education institution.

(3) Up to 6 persons to take part in summer language seminars.

Article 4

The Parties shall continue supporting the activities of lecturers and guest-professors, teaching language and culture. For that purpose, the Parties shall receive lecturers on reciprocal basis where, during the period of this Programme, there are Bulgarian or Hungarian language departments or lecturer formations. The Hungarian Party shall receive a Bulgarian lecturer at the Eötvös Loránd University and at the University of Szeged. The Bulgarian Party shall receive a Hungarian guest-professor at the Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

The Parties shall support the sending of lecturers in other higher education institutions in both countries in case there is a need for that.

Article 5

The Bulgarian Party shall support the involvement of the Bulgarian National Self-Government as well as the supported by it Bulgarian School for Mother Language and the Bulgarian Bilingual Nationality Kindergarten under the Programme for support of Bulgarian societies abroad for studying the Bulgarian language. The training of the teachers and child pedagogues can be carried out in accordance with Art. 3, (2).

ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 6

General provisions

(1) Within this Programme for Cooperation the Parties agree that they shall reciprocally exempt the persons approved under this Programme for Cooperation from payment of fees for issuing, as well as extension of the period for temporary residence permits on the host country territory.

(2) The terms for exchange of experts within the direct cooperation shall be defined by the agreements between the collaborating institutions.

(3) The trips of persons, exchanged in accordance with art. 3, planned for the respective academic year, should be completed until 30 July of the respective year.

Article 7

(1) Travel costs:

The candidates under Art. 3 shall cover their travel expenses to the place of training and back.

(2) Health insurance

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 and their relevant amendments, scholarship holders who are citizens of the Member States of the European Union or countries which are members of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) and Switzerland shall, where appropriate, benefit from medical assistance on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and Hungary through the European Health Insurance Card. Scholarship holders shall be personally responsible for acquiring such a card in the country they come from.

The scholarship holders and participants in summer language seminars, staying in Bulgaria or Hungary shall take care of their health insurance on their own.

Article 8

Forms of support:

- (1) The host country shall exempt the scholarship holders under Art. 3 (1) and (2) from payment of the training cost and shall provide them accommodation in students' dormitory and use of student canteen under conditions it offers to its citizens.
- (2) The sending country shall provide the scholarships of candidates under Art. 3 (1) and (2) in accordance with its domestic legislation.
- (3) Pursuant to Art. 3 (3), for the persons admitted to summer language seminars in the respective higher education institutions, the host country shall provide accommodation and catering for the period of the summer seminar, as well as participation in cultural and scientific programmes. Trips to and from the place of the respective summer seminar shall be covered by the sending country or the travelling person.

Article 9

(1) Conditions for admission of lecturers and guest-professors

Lecturers and guest-professors, admitted on the grounds of Art. 4, shall enter into employment and public insurance relations with the host institution for a defined period of time in accordance with the applicable domestic and European legislation. In addition to the salary, the host country shall provide for appropriately large and furnished residence or the funds for renting one in accordance with its financial capabilities and the domestic legislation. The host country shall take care of the health insurance in accordance with the legislation in force in this country.

Conditions for occupying the Bulgarian lecturers' position:

The mandate of the Bulgarian lecturers shall be defined in accordance with the local regulations of the sending Party. The Hungarian party shall annually make assessment of the Bulgarian lecturers' work during the respective academic year and shall, by 30 April of the respective calendar year, inform about its opinion on the extension of their mandate.

By 31 January of the year when the lecturer's mandate expires, the Hungarian party shall send its requirements for the educational qualification and professional experience of the new

lecturer and based on it the Bulgarian party, with view of its practices, shall open procedure for filling the vacant position. The documents of the proposed new Bulgarian lecturer shall be sent to the Hungarian party not later than 30 June. The Hungarian party shall, not later than 31 July, notify the Bulgarian party through the diplomatic channels about its position regarding the application of the new lecturer.

Conditions for the Hungarian lecturers' position:

The mandate of the Hungarian lecturers shall not exceed four years, which can be extended at the request from the host country. The Bulgarian party shall annually make assessment of the Hungarian lecturers' work during the respective academic year and shall, by 15 October of the previous calendar year when the lecturer's mandate expires, inform about its opinion on the extension of their mandate.

By 15 October of the previous calendar year when the lecturer's mandate expires the Bulgarian Party shall send its requirements for the educational qualification and professional experience of the new lecturer and based on it the Hungarian Party, with view of its practices, shall open procedure for filling the vacant position.

The documents of the proposed new Hungarian lecturer shall be sent not later than 15 January. The Bulgarian party shall, not later than 15 February, notify the Hungarian party through the diplomatic channels, about its position regarding the application for the new lecturer.

Article 10

The following fields shall remain priority for the cooperation between the Parties:

- (1) Carrying out of joint scientific research,
- (2) Exchange of students in higher education institutions,
- (3) Exchange of scientists and lecturers,
- (4) Study visits of scientists,
- (5) Training in Bulgarian, respectively Hungarian studies in the other country.

With view of the above, the Parties shall inform each other about any new basic documents, adopted in the field of science and education, as well as scientific presentations in the field of education.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Article 11

- (1) The Parties shall support the joint elaboration of research projects in areas which are priority for both Parties and encourage the effective use and implementation of the results of joint research within these projects, complying with the applicable legislation on intellectual property and copyright.
- (2) The Parties shall support the examination of opportunities for participation in projects, aimed at building or expanding the regional information networks and specialized data

bases in the field of science and higher education.

- (3) The Parties shall support the direct cooperation and participation in bilateral and multilateral scientific, technological, research and development programmes and projects such as EUREKA.
- (4) The Parties shall encourage their partner national scientific organizations for joint participation in research and innovation projects within the European framework programmes for research and innovation (like Horizon Europe) and other initiatives.
- (5) The Parties shall assist in the preparation of joint research projects in priority fields and encourage the access to national and research infrastructures.
- (6) The Parties encourage any institutions and researchers, dealing with Hungarian history, culture, language and arts in Bulgaria and with Bulgarian history, culture, language and arts in Hungary.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 12

(1) This Programme shall enter into force on the day of its signing and shall remain in force until 31 December 2024.

(2) This Programme can be amended or supplemented based on a mutual written consent of the Parties sent by diplomatic channels. Any such amendments and supplements shall be an integral part of the Programme.

Done in on 2022 in two original copies in the English language.
Any disputes shall be settled amicably.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

FOR THE MINISTRY FOR INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY OF HUNGARY