



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN**

**THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
OF GEORGIA**

**CONCERNING  
COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION**

The Federal Ministry for Education and Women's Affairs of the Republic of Austria, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia hereinafter referred to as "Sides":

- based on friendly relations which exist between their two countries;
- based on regional initiatives and initiatives of the European Union in South Caucasus;
- being aware of the fact that the cooperation in the fields of education contributes to a better understanding between both countries;

have reached the following understanding:

**Paragraph 1**

Both Sides welcome cooperation in the fields of education based on the principles of mutual respect and partnership.

**Paragraph 2**

Both Sides encourage the exchange of experience and know-how transfer at expert and policy levels in the field of education. Special emphasis will be given to the following topics: structure and the organization of the systems of education, curricula, didactic materials and improvement of teaching quality.

**Paragraph 3**

Both Sides encourage direct relations and cooperation between the Austrian University Colleges of Teacher Education and teacher training institutions in Georgia.

#### **Paragraph 4**

The Austrian side will offer Georgian teachers of German language at all levels, especially for those who are in a multiplier function, the opportunity to attend "German as a Foreign Language" two week training seminars on specific subjects related to Austrian Studies as well as on German instruction methodology held throughout Austria. The seminar-catalogue for the following year is published in October and is available at the website [www.kulturundsprache.at](http://www.kulturundsprache.at).

The Austrian side will also offer short-term (2 – 3 days) training courses in Georgia for teachers of German at school and university level by request, on an annual or biennial basis, focussing on Austrian culture ("Landeskunde") as part of German language teaching.

The Austrian Diploma for German Language (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch, ÖSD, information at [www.osd.at](http://www.osd.at)) has already established a successful licence partnership with the Ilia University in Tbilisi. Further Georgian institutions being interested in the Austrian Diploma for German Language (ÖSD) are welcome to apply for a licence to become ÖSD examination centres.

#### **Paragraph 5**

Both Sides welcome an intensive exchange of experience in the area of Vocational Education and Training (VET), including the agricultural, the forestry and the viniculture sector as well as the tourism sector. This cooperation will also take place in the framework of the EU-instrument "European Neighbourhood Policy" (ENP) and possibly in the activities of the EU-agency European Training Foundation (ETF).

A first pilot project is intended to be implemented at Fesvebi School in Tbilisi, which will also be supported in the field of German language teacher training and school partnerships.

Both Sides encourage economic schools to foster entrepreneurship education including the co-operation of practice firms (virtual companies).

#### **Paragraph 6**

Both Sides encourage the intensification of contacts between Georgian and Austrian schools through school partnership programmes and participation in multilateral school networks. In Austria the Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs welcomes these school cooperations in general and have authorized the Interkulturelles Zentrum to facilitate these school partnerships (<http://www.iz.or.at>).

#### **Paragraph 7**

Both Sides welcome educational activities of their civil societies on a bilateral and regional level. In this context the Austrian Side supports the Caucasus Education Initiative. Additional information is available on the website of the Interkulturelles Zentrum (<http://www.iz.or.at>).

### Paragraph 8

Both Sides will facilitate the participation of their representatives in international conferences, meetings and competitions on educational matters organized by the other Side.

### Paragraph 9

1. The sending Side will submit in advance to the receiving Side the required documents on the persons to be sent, including information on the desired programme for the visit, and, after obtaining confirmation from the receiving Side that the proposed persons are welcome, will notify the latter as soon as possible of the exact arrival dates.
2. The sending Side will cover the international travel costs and the receiving Side will cover all additional travel costs arising from activities of the experts on its territory.
3. Both Sides will provide free accommodation and a daily allowance upon which an understanding will be reached in advance.
4. Pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding the experts may enter the countries of both Sides in accordance with the relevant visa regulations and only after their health insurance and accident insurance costs have been covered by the sending Side.

### Paragraph 10

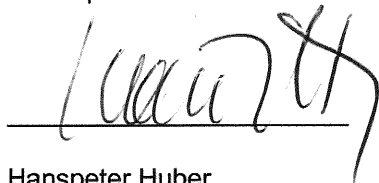
The present Memorandum will take effect on the date of its signature by the Sides and will be valid until December 31, 2017. The Validity of the Memorandum of Understanding will be renewed for the following periods of 2 (two) years, unless one Side notifies in writing the other Side of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding at least 6 (six) months prior to the expiration date.

### Paragraph 11

The present Memorandum of Understanding does not result in the creation of any new obligations regarding international law nor will it have any effect on existing legislation.

Done on second October 2014 in four copies, in English and Georgian languages. All copies have the same validity and each of the Sides keeps two copies of the MOU in both languages. Should different interpretation arise in the English and Georgian versions, the English version shall prevail.

For the  
Federal Ministry for Education  
and Women's Affairs of  
the Republic of Austria



Hanspeter Huber  
Director General

For the  
Ministry of Education  
and Science of Georgia



Lia Gigauri  
Deputy Minister