

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

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

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

The Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs of the Republic of Austria  
and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth of the Republic of Albania

- on the basis of many years of friendly relations between the two countries
- with reference to the bilateral Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation from 2006 and the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding concerning the establishment of the "Peter Mahringer" School in Shkodra from 2006
- with the desire to deepen and broaden the excellent cooperation in the field of education and training, which have been proven by numerous successful bilateral projects undertaken in cooperation with the Austrian Educational Coordinator and KulturKontakt Austria
- in their common effort for a significant contribution to bringing the Albanian education and training system closer to meeting the needs of the Albanian labour market and the requirements of the European Union
- hereby relying on the successful role model of the "Peter Mahringer" School and the Austrian School Foundation Shkodra as well as the support of the Austrian Educational Coordinator in Tirana and of KulturKontakt Austria

take the following into consideration:

## **Article 1**

Based on the example of the Austrian upper secondary colleges for IT, a higher vocational technical college will be established in Tirana as an integral part of the Albanian school system.

a) The language of instruction is Albanian and in addition special attention will be given to teaching English and as second foreign language German;

b) Key area of the educational programme will be Informatics and Software Engineering based on a comprehensive training in basics of applied IT. Alongside subjects pertaining to general education, subjects from the areas of Data processing, Business Administration and Project Management will equally be taught;

c) In addition to core subjects, skills such as Communication, Presentation and teamwork will be developed.

## **Article 2**

The educational programme will comprise four school years (2+2) and conclude with State Matura exams - which are recognised in Albania with equivalent access to Universities and other institutions of tertiary education as graduates from Albanian "gymnasiums" (as foreseen in the last working programme to the Cultural Agreement between both countries).

Based on the curriculum of the Austrian school "Peter Mahringer" in Shkodra and in general upper secondary IT colleges in Austria, but also taking requirements of the Albanian labour market into account, the Austrian side will support the development of a curriculum (2+2) for the vocational IT related subjects.

In order to ensure high quality practice the share between teaching in classroom and in laboratories with smaller numbers of pupils will follow the Austrian model as well as the number of hours per year of internships in companies.

## **Article 3**

Tuition is planned to begin in autumn 2014.

The necessary infrastructural changes to the school building of the "Hermann Gmeiner" school in Tirana, the envisaged location of the new IT school in Tirana, as well as the purchase of the necessary technical equipment will be undertaken by the Albanian side in two steps:

First structural changes will be undertaken and school furniture as well as technical supplies necessary for the first year will be purchased till end of 2014.

The rest of the structural changes, i.e. extension of the school building in order to provide the necessary number of classrooms and laboratories as well as technical equipment for the teaching in years 2 – 4 will be undertaken till autumn 2016, i.e. the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching/learning at the IT school “Hermann Gmeiner” at the latest.

The Austrian side will provide information about the necessary technical details for the technical equipment needed and provide advisory services as to its instalment.

The Albanian side will cover all running costs ensuring the provision of high teaching quality, especially including high speed internet access.

#### **Article 4**

The Albanian side will provide teaching, administrative and management staff for the implementation of the new curriculum as well as the school development and leadership needed to ensure high quality teaching/learning as well as good co-operation with the business sector.

The Austrian side will support the recruitment process of the teaching staff for the technical subjects by defining competence profiles and taking part in the assessment process.

The Austrian side will provide an Austrian Educational Manager in the rank of a pedagogical director of the technical school “Hermann Gmeiner”.

The main areas of responsibility of the Austrian Educational Manager are curriculum development and implementation, staff development, co-operation with the business community and overall quality management.

In order to ensure good communication between the Austrian Educational Manager and the Albanian school director, good English skills on both sides are necessary as well as a school secretary with good English/German language skills.

The Albanian side will explore and use all legal means to provide the IT staff at the “Hermann Gmeiner” School with sufficient financial incentives to ensure well qualified and motivated personnel.

#### **Article 5**

For the first school year 2014/15 both partners agree that the IT school “Hermann Gmeiner” will be managed by the directors of the technical school “Gjergji Canco”.

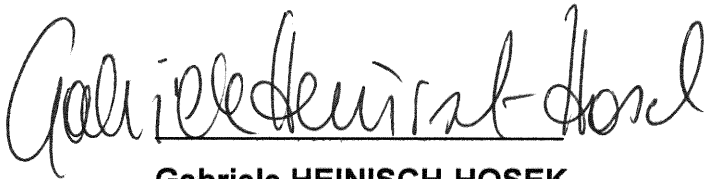
In the second year of running, the IT school “Hermann Gmeiner” will become an independent school with its own Albanian school director and Austrian Educational Manager.

## Article 6

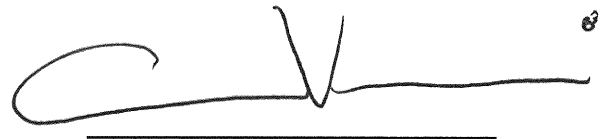
The Austrian side will provide staff training for the IT related teachers at the IT school "Hermann Gmeiner" in order to guarantee that the new curriculum will be implemented at a high professional level. This training will be organised and implemented by the Austrian Educational Coordinator. In this frame the "Peter Mahringer" School in Shkodra will offer complementary peer-learning modules.

The Austrian side will also support the school in the development of the necessary teaching/learning materials.

Done in Vienna on 25 November 2014 in two original documents in English.



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