MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, THE ARTS AND CULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AND
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE AND ARTS FOR 2009–2012

The Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture of the Republic of Austria, of the one part, and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, of the other part, hereinafter referred to as 'the Sides',

Desiring to strengthen the co-operation of both countries in the fields of arts and culture in order to experience the cultures of the states of both Sides and explore them together,

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

Both Sides will encourage direct contact between artists, and public and private institutions in the fields of arts and culture, including the initiatives of both countries which promote the co-operation in the fields of literature, visual arts, photography, theatre, dance and music.

Article 2

Both Sides will co-operate through international organisations, including within the framework of the European Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO) and the Council of Europe.

Both Sides will encourage the co-operation of both countries within the framework of cultural exchange programmes of the European Union, in particular, the Culture Programme (2007–2013). Furthermore, both Sides recognise and will encourage the co-operation between Linz and Vilnius in the European Capital of Culture 2009 Project.

Both Sides emphasise the importance of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and will encourage bilateral co-operation in order to facilitate the implementation of these conventions.

Article 3

Both Sides will encourage the co-operation of museums and galleries in organising history, arts, contemporary arts, architecture, design and other exhibitions.

Article 4

Both Sides will exchange information and experience related to current cultural policies in the fields of museums, libraries, publishing and professional arts.

Article 5

Both Sides will encourage museums and other cultural institutions to co-operate in accordance with the legislation in force in their respective territories. The Austrian Side informs the Lithuanian Side that the Austrian Museums are autonomous. The institutions concerned are responsible for the practical implementation of co-operation projects and related agreements.

Article 6

Both Sides will encourage museums to co-operate through an exchange of specialists, joint implementation of research programmes, exchange of the experience of initial and continuous training of museum workers and the transfer of technology and knowledge (transfer of good practice).

Both Sides will pay particular attention to marketing, management and fundraising in the museum sector.

Article 7

Both Sides will seek to ensure an improved access of all members of the public to digitised cultural heritage, which reveals the history and cultural diversity of the countries. Therefore, both Sides will encourage the co-operation of institutions involved in the digitisation of cultural heritage, and initiation and implementation of joint projects for the presentation and popularisation of digital cultural heritage.

Both Sides welcome the involvement and participation of the Austrian and Lithuanian institutions involved in the digitisation of cultural heritage in the EUROPEANA Project and will promote its further development.

Both Sides will encourage the co-operation of digitisation specialists in addressing organisational, technical and legal issues of digitisation of cultural heritage, preservation of digital content and ensuring access to it, and the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and information in this field.

Article 8

Both Sides will encourage co-operation in the public library sector and propose an exchange of ideas, experience and experts between the competent institutions of both countries.

Article 9

While this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect, both Sides, without exceeding their budgetary resources, will exchange visits of artists and experts in the fields of literature, visual arts, photography, films, theatre and music, for a maximum of 20 person days each.

Article 10

Both Sides will express their wish to invite two artists in the fields of contemporary arts and/or photography from each of the countries for a three month stay (artists in residence) every three years.

Article 11

Both Sides will encourage participation of their representatives in festivals, international meetings, seminars and other cultural events organised in the other country. Both Sides will inform each other about the programmes of these cultural events, their dates and terms of participation.

Article 12

Both Parties will aim, for the duration of this programme and without exceeding their budgetary resources, to arrange a presentation of their arts and culture in the other country.

Article 13

The exchange of artists, culture and art experts between both Sides will be conducted subject to the following terms and conditions:

- the sending Side will submit, in advance, to the receiving Side the required documents on the persons sent, including the information about the desired programme for the visit and, after obtaining confirmation from the receiving Side that the proposed persons are welcome, will, as soon as possible, notify it of the exact dates of arrival;
- the sending Side will cover the international travel costs, while the receiving Side will take care of other expenses related to the activities of the artists and/or experts on the territory of that country;
- the Austrian Side will provide free accommodation and a daily allowance upon which an understanding will be reached in advance. The same will be provided on the Lithuanian Side;
- in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding and with respect to international experience, the institutions concerned will directly agree on the conditions for the exchange of exhibitions, artists and experts;
- pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding, artists and experts may enter the countries of both Sides only after their health insurance and accident insurance costs have been covered by the sending Side.

Article 14

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the day of its signature and will remain effective until 31 December 2012. This Memorandum of Understanding may be extended upon mutual written understanding of both Sides.

Article 15

Either Side may cancel this Memorandum of Understanding by a written notification. The cancellation will become effective six months after the day of receipt of the written notification by the other Side or such later date as may be specified in the notification. The cancellation of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the implementation of the programmes and projects upon which both Sides have reached an understanding.

Article 16

This Memorandum of Understanding will not create obligations under international law and it will not affect national legislation or obligations assumed by the countries in accordance with the international law.

Done at Vilnius on 19 June 2009, in duplicate in the English language.

For the Federal Ministry
for Education, the Arts and Culture
of the Republic of Austria

For the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Lithuania