Memorandum of Understanding

between

the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

and

the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia

on Cooperation in the Fields of the Arts and Culture

The Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, hereinafter referred to as "the Sides":

- based on the 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 cooperation in the fields of culture and the arts contributes to a better understanding between both countries;

have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

The Sides welcome the cooperation in the fields of culture and the arts based on the principles of mutual respect and partnership.

Article 2

The Sides encourage direct cooperation and exchange of artists and experts in the field of contemporary arts, in the area of visual arts, traditional art, music, literature, film, theatre, photography, architecture and design.
Concrete proposals, actions and details will be discussed between the responsible institutions and organizations of their countries.

Article 3

The Sides stress the importance of the UNESCO "Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" as well as the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage". The Sides aim at strengthening their bilateral cooperation for the creation of conditions conducive to the promotion of these Conventions.

Article 4

The Sides encourage direct cooperation between public cultural institutions, museums, libraries, archives and other cultural organizations of their countries, such as the Austrian Association "KulturKontakt".

Article 5

The Sides welcome the organization of bilateral seminars, symposia and conferences at expert level, to study issues related to the preservation of cultural heritage and to promote other forms of cooperation in the field of heritage protection including the prevention of illegal import and export of cultural goods according to the laws and regulations valid in their respective countries.

Article 6

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

Article 7

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

Article 8

The Georgian Side expresses high interest in receiving qualified expertise in the area of Cultural Policy. The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has started elaboration on the Cultural Policy Document. In this regard, the Ministry would like to share Austrian experience in this field.

Article 9

The Georgian Side expresses high interest in sharing the experience of participation in the European Union programme Creative Europe, in particular the sub-programmes Culture and Media.

Article 10

The activities of cooperation to be carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the availability of funds and resources of the Sides. Each Side will endeavour to provide adequate resources for the implementation of its own commitments in relation to such activities.

Article 11

The present Memorandum of Understanding will take effect upon the date of signing.
It will remain effective until 31 December 2019 and will be extended for additional five years unless it is cancelled in writing by one of the two Sides at least six months prior to the expiration of its effectiveness.

Article 12

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 in Vienna, on 10.09. 2015,
in two original documents in English.

For the Federal Chancellery
of the Republic of Austria

For the Ministry of Culture and
Monument Protection of Georgia