

BMB

Bundesministerium
für Bildung



State of Israel
Ministry of Education

Letter of Intent

between

the Federal Ministry for Education of the Republic of Austria

and

the Ministry of Education of the State of Israel

on the Establishment of the Austrian-Israeli Textbook Committee

The Federal Ministry for Education of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Education of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants");

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural, Scientific and Educational Cooperation between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of Austria for the years 2015 - 2018, signed in Jerusalem, on May 16, 2016.

Considering the desire to further develop and enhance cooperation in education, on basis of good will and mutual understanding, intend to establish a joint (Austrian-Israeli) committee for the examination of school textbooks (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee").

The Austrian-Israeli Textbook Committee will be responsible for examining post primary school textbooks, in the history, civics and geography disciplines, while reviewing how each country is portrayed in the other country's textbooks. This review will focus on a number of topics to be chosen jointly by representatives of the two Participants and will enable examinations of issues agreed upon in view of the general challenges both education systems face.

In the framework of the Committee's activity, each Participant intends to set up a working team, which will conduct a systematic and descriptive analysis of the chosen topics, as presented in the textbooks of the country that it represents.

The working teams of both countries will hold at least three joint meetings. The meetings will take place alternatively in Israel and Austria, or as agreed upon by both countries.

The results and recommendations will be formulated in a joint document at the conclusion of the Committee's activity. The joint document will be submitted to the Ministers of Education of both countries.

The duration of the Committee's activity has been set for approximately a year and a half. The conclusions will be presented in a joint conference during the year of 2019.

Both Participants believe that adopting the Committee's recommendations will reinforce the special relationship between the two countries and their people, seeking to base education in each of them on values of mutual understanding, openness, humanism, and democracy.

Signed on the 19 of July 2017, which corresponds to the 25 day of Tamuz 5777.



For the Federal Ministry for Education
of the Republic of Austria



For the Ministry of Education
of the State of Israel