

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**between**

**The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research  
of the Republic of Austria  
(hereinafter "the Ministry")**

**and**

**Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center  
(hereinafter "Yad Vashem")**

**hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Sides",**

### **Preamble**

Recalling the twenty years of successful cooperation between Yad Vashem and the Ministry and its program \_erinnern.at\_, implemented by the OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalization;

In consideration of other diplomatic agreements signed by Republic of Austria and the State of Israel, confirming their partnership and cooperation in many fields;

Bearing in mind the annual seminars held at Yad Vashem since 2000 for approximately 800 Austrian educators who have benefited from the program;

Recalling that both the Republic of Austria and the State of Israel are member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and are committed to the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust in which they pledged, in part, to strengthen efforts to promote education and remembrance of the Holocaust and encourage the study of the Holocaust in schools and universities, communities and other institutions, as well as encourage Holocaust commemoration;

In consideration of the achievements of the Ministry and erinnern.at in creating a sophisticated multi-tiered base of support for Holocaust educators in the Republic of Austria;

Recognizing the efforts of the Austrian government to counter all forms of antisemitism and its whole of government national strategy against antisemitism which was published in 2021;

Recalling Austria's pledges at the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism – Remember ReAct in October 2021, that included, amongst other pledges, advance and increase training for educators and adapting teacher-training curricula;

In consideration of the important outcomes and recommendations of the Austrian-Israeli Textbook Committee, the committee started to evaluate Austrian and Israeli textbooks in 2017, its final report and its recommendations were published in 2021;

Emphasizing the important work of erinnern.at in advocating for Holocaust awareness and creating and supporting Holocaust memorial events;

Underlining the numerous German-language Holocaust education materials that Yad Vashem, the Ministry and erinnern.at have produced, and considering their continuous cooperation and valuable exchange in the development of Holocaust-related education materials;

Recognizing the numerous accomplishments and the dedication of Austrian seminar graduates in their classroom work;

Recognizing the professional contributions of Yad Vashem experts to various seminars organized by the Ministry and erinnern.at for educators throughout Austria;

Convinced of the link between preservation of memory and the shaping of a better future;

Aware of the potential positive outcome that may result from continued association, consultation and cooperation, and in full recognition of these past accomplishments and current undertakings, the Sides hereby reaffirm their commitment to continue their long-term partnership and fruitful cooperation:

The Sides have reached a mutual understanding on the following points:

**1. The Sides will continue their ongoing successful cooperation to organize seminars designed for Austrian educators at Yad Vashem:**

- 1.1. The Ministry and [\\_erinnern.at\\_](#) will, within the scope of their budgetary capacities, annually recruit one group of active classroom teachers, representing a broad spectrum of Austria's regions. A minimum of twenty teachers will be selected, not exceeding twenty-five persons. The Ministry and [\\_erinnern.at\\_](#)/OeAD will choose these teachers from among those having not previously participated in a Yad Vashem teacher-training seminar. A second seminar may be coordinated pending budgetary considerations on both Sides.
  - 1.1.1. Both Sides will explore the possibility to conduct seminars remotely, via digital learning platforms, in consideration of potential extenuating circumstances.
- 1.2. As in previous years, the Sides will financially contribute, according to respective available funds, to cover the expenses related to seminars at Yad Vashem. Specifically:
  - 1.2.1. Yad Vashem will undertake the organization of the seminar agenda - matters of content and logistical aspects - including coordinating lectures, workshops, study trips, meals, local transportation and the distribution of teaching materials.
  - 1.2.2. The Ministry will secure funding to cover the expenses associated with participants' seminar fees (coordination costs), their round-trip airfare from the Republic of Austria to the State of Israel, as well as their lodging in the State of Israel. Seminar fees will be jointly decided by both Sides.
- 1.3. The Ministry will select the participants, among active classroom teachers in middle schools, high schools and vocational training schools, pre-service teachers and educational multipliers.
- 1.4. The program of the seminars will be jointly determined by Yad Vashem and [\\_erinnern.at\\_](#).
- 1.5. The Ministry, together with the University of Education Upper Austria and the Salzburg University of Education Stefan Zweig, will officially continue to accredit the Austrian seminars at Yad Vashem as Holocaust Education Training within the framework of the European Credit Transfer System.

**2. Organization of preparatory and follow-up sessions in the Republic of Austria for the participants of the seminar in Yad Vashem.**

2.1. The Sides will financially contribute, according to respective available funds, to cover the expenses related to workshops to be held in the Republic of Austria. Specifically:

2.1.1. Yad Vashem will cover the flight costs, per diem and work days for one expert to participate within the framework of preparatory and follow-up sessions in Austria.

2.1.2. For the duration of the workshop in the Republic of Austria, the Ministry will cover board and lodging costs for one Yad Vashem expert, as well as his/her local travel expenses and other costs pertinent to the organization of this programming.

2.2. The program of preparatory and follow-up sessions will be jointly determined by Yad Vashem and [\\_erinnern.at\\_](http://erinnern.at).

2.3. Seminars may, upon a joint decision of the Sides, be conducted remotely, via digital learning platforms. A hybrid option may be considered as well per the agreement of both Sides.

**3. Exchange of Experts**

3.1. The Sides plan an exchange of experts, within the scope of their budgetary capacities, with the aim to develop joint points in view to combat racism, antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion, nationalism and right-wing extremism, as part of the cooperation within the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

3.2. The Sides plan to exchange lecturers who will speak in relation to Holocaust education and remembrance. Speaking opportunities may include events, seminars and international conferences.

3.2.1. Speaking opportunities shall not be limited to in-person events, and may be conducted remotely following a joint decision of the Sides.

3.3. The Sides plan to exchange experts with the aim to develop state-of-the-art educational materials and educational programs. Topics include but are not limited to primary education, prevention of antisemitism through education and Holocaust distortion.

#### 4. Final Provisions

4.1. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signature and will expire on December 31, 2027.

4.2. Upon expiry, this Memorandum of Understanding will be automatically renewed for an additional period of one (1) year, unless cancelled by either Side in accordance with Point 4.3.

4.3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be cancelled by either Side at any time by giving at least six (6) months written notice to the other Side.

4.4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual understanding of both Sides in written form.

4.5. This Memorandum of Understanding will not create any legal or financial rights or obligations and will be implemented in accordance with national and international law.

Signed in Vienna on 31/12, 2022, which corresponds to the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
5782, in two originals in the English language.



Martin Polaschek  
Federal Minister of Education, Science  
and Research  
Republic of Austria



Dani Dayan  
Chairman  
Yad Vashem