

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN**

**THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA**

**AND**

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

**CONCERNING**

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

The Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria and the Minister of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, hereinafter referred to as "Sides":

- BASED on the longstanding friendly relations between their two countries,
- ACKNOWLEDGING their excellent collaboration in the field of education, especially in vocational education and training,
- BEING AWARE of the fact that the cooperation in the field of education contributes to a better understanding between nations and to economic growth, welfare and social inclusion,
- APPRECIATING the decision of the European Council to grant the status of candidate country to the Republic of Moldova,
- RECOGNISING the impressive results of the joint projects managed by the OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, via its cooperation office in Chişinău headed by the Austrian educational coordinator for the Republic of Moldova,
- WITH THE DESIRE to deepen and broaden the cooperation in the field of vocational education and training through the establishment of an Austrian Higher Technical College of Electronics and Technical Computer Sciences / Informatics in Chişinău,

have reached the following understanding:

**Article 1**

Both Sides welcome the bilateral cooperation in the field of education based on the principles of mutual respect and partnership in view of supporting educational reforms in the Republic of Moldova.

## **Article 2**

Both Sides encourage the exchange of experience and knowledge transfer at expert and policy levels in the field of education, offering each other information e.g. concerning the governance of systems of education, quality assurance, curricula and didactic materials, new teaching and learning approaches.

## **Article 3**

Both Sides welcome the establishment of an Austrian Higher Technical College in Chişinău as a private institution and agree on its specialisation in electronics and technical computer sciences / informatics. The opening of the school is envisaged for fall 2025.

The language of instruction will be primarily German. Additionally, lessons will be taught in Romanian and English.

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research will provide the head of the school as well as teachers for instruction given in German.

The Moldovan Ministry of Education and Research is committed to support the school as far as possible and to facilitate its operation.

Both Sides appreciate that this project will further deepen the cooperation between the two countries and contribute to the internationalisation of both school systems. The school-leaving certificate of the Austrian Higher Technical College is recognised as a qualification for admission to the universities of both countries.

## **Article 4**

Both Sides welcome the activities of the OeAD operating in the field of educational cooperation on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research via its cooperation office in Chişinău headed by the Austrian educational coordinator for the Republic of Moldova.

The Austrian educational coordinator in Chişinău is deployed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, whereby the OeAD is in charge of the design and implementation of projects in support of sustainable education reforms and mutual learning between the Moldovan and Austrian education systems.

The Moldovan Side provides the necessary office space (rent, heating, electricity, maintenance and telephone line) for the educational coordinator and his/her assistant/s.

The Austrian Side covers all costs related to the employment of the educational coordinator. The Austrian Side also covers communication costs (phone and internet) for the educational coordinator and his/her assistant/s and the costs for joint projects.

The official name of the office is "OeAD Cooperation Office Chişinău".

## **Article 5**

Both Sides welcome an intensive exchange of experience in the area of Vocational Education and Training (VET), with a specific focus on raising the quality of VET through strengthening the role of

Centres of Vocational Excellence, effective school based quality assurance and new teaching/learning approaches in school and company based learning settings. This cooperation will also take place in the framework of the "European Neighbourhood Policy"(ENP).

Moreover, both Sides encourage business schools to foster entrepreneurship education including the cooperation of practice firms (virtual companies).

#### **Article 6**

Both Sides welcome the continuation of the cooperation in the field of enhancing access and equity of education and training systems, with a specific focus on increasing access to quality education and training for students with special educational needs.

#### **Article 7**

Both Sides encourage the intensification of contacts between Moldovan and Austrian schools through school partnership programmes and participation in multilateral school networks.

#### **Article 8**

Both Sides encourage the development of direct relations and cooperation between teacher training institutions in Moldova and the Austrian University Colleges of Teacher Education.

#### **Article 9**

The Austrian Side will offer Moldovan teachers of German language at all levels the opportunity to attend "German as a Foreign Language" training programmes, both online and in the Republic of Moldova in the framework of "Austrian Days". Additionally, an online platform offers open educational resource materials for teachers of German. Further information can be found on the website [www.kulturundsprache.at](http://www.kulturundsprache.at).

Moldovan institutions being interested in Austrian Diploma for German Language (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch, ÖSD, information on [www.osd.at](http://www.osd.at)) are welcome to apply for a license to become ÖSD examination centers.

#### **Article 10**

Both Sides welcome and encourage the intensification of regional cooperation in education and training within the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe as well as, where appropriate, in other relevant transnational networks and projects.

#### **Article 11**

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective upon signature by both Sides. It will remain in operation until the end of 2027 and can be automatically renewed for four years once.

#### **Article 12**

Either Side may cancel this Memorandum of Understanding at any time, in writing. In that case, it ceases to be effective six months after receipt of the notification by the other Side.

### Article 13

The present Memorandum of Understanding does not result in new financial obligation, in the creation of any new obligations regarding international law nor will it have any effect on existing legislation.

Signed on 05.03. 2024 in six original duplicates, in German, Romanian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**Federal Minister of Education, Science  
and Research of the Republic of Austria**

**Minister of Education  
and Research of the Republic of Moldova**

**Martin POLASCHEK**

**Dan PERCIUN**

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Martin Polaschek, and the signature on the right is for Dan Perciun. Both signatures are stylized and cursive.