

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
AND  
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus, hereinafter referred to as the "Participants",

Desiring to strengthen the co-operation between both States in the field of education,  
Have reached the following understanding:

**Paragraph 1**

The Participants will encourage the exchange of experience and know-how at expert and policy levels in the field of education, offering each other non-confidential and non-privileged information including, inter alia, information concerning the structure and the organisation of the systems of education, reform directions, curricula, didactic materials and teacher training.

**Paragraph 2**

- 1) The Participants will encourage their accredited higher education institutions to establish cooperation of mutual benefit.
- 2) The Participants will encourage and support their accredited higher education institutions, based on their needs, to assign academic and research staff to teach, give lectures and carry out research cooperatively in accredited higher education institutions of the other State.
- 3) The Participants will encourage and support their accredited higher education institutions to exchange information on teaching, research and co-host academic symposiums.

- 4) The Participants will encourage the development of exchange programmes (e.g, within the EU programme Erasmus+) and other joint programmes between the accredited higher education institutions of both States.

### **Paragraph 3**

- 1) The Participants will cooperate closely to promote:
  - (a) the enhancement of exchange programmes for primary/secondary school students, teachers and education experts; and
  - (b) joint participation in EU-funded programmes (e.g. Erasmus+) in accordance with and/or subject to any terms and/or conditions and/or eligibility requirements pertaining to these programmes.
- 2) The Participants will endeavour to establish direct contacts and favour co-operation and exchanges of methodological and teaching experiences between primary/secondary schools, with a view to carrying out exchanges of groups of students.
- 3) The Participants will encourage the exchange of teacher trainers to become acquainted with the pre-service and in-service training programmes of primary and secondary education teachers of each other.

### **Paragraph 4**

- 1) The Participants will encourage cooperation in the areas of the exchange of students, education experts and teaching staff. They will equally encourage the implementation of joint projects in secondary vocational education and training, including apprenticeship and evening schools of VET, as well as in higher vocational education and training, and lifelong vocational education and training. These activities will be effected under the EU programme Erasmus+.
- 2) The Participants will – subject to their budgetary resources - exchange experience and information about:
  - (a) reform procedures and the structure of vocational education and training in the States of both Participants;
  - (b) the modernisation and upgrading of curricula; and
  - (c) the design and development of in-service training programmes for educators.

### **Paragraph 5**

Both Participants will co-operate in the field of Education for Environment and Sustainable Development (hereinafter referred to as "E.E.S.D"), subject to their budgetary resources, as follows:

- (a) Development of common initiatives and working together in the framework of the European Union, UNESCO, UNECE and other international organizations, regarding the utilization of the European Programmes and Resources for implementing common programmes and actions related to ESD2030 priority areas and SDGs;
- (b) Exchange of good practices, ideas, tools, experience and expertise on whole school/institution approach and E.E.S.D, quality education and E.E.S.D, digital education and E.E.S.D, European Citizenship Education and E.E.S.D, youth and green innovation and entrepreneurship;
- (c) Transfer of good practices in formal and non-formal education between the two interested sides;
- (d) Organisation of study visits on E.E.S.D for experts, scientists as well as teachers and working together on E.E.S.D formal, non-formal and informal education.
- (e) Development and implementation of joint programmes based on youth engagement and E.E.S.D.
- (f) Working together in the field of non-formal education, by developing joint community programmes on SDGs and hosting Austrian students and teachers at the Cyprus Governmental Networks of Environmental Education Centers for attending a series of Environmental and Sustainable programmes and seminars that will be organised in collaboration with the two interested sides.

### **Paragraph 6**

The Participants will notify each other of relevant international scientific and educational events held in their States and encourage their representatives to attend such events.

### **Paragraph 7**

The Participants will exchange information, expertise and good practices in the fields of adult education and lifelong learning.

### **Paragraph 8**

The Participants will exchange information, expertise and good practices on Information and communication technology, digital education, media literacy and distance learning.

## **FINANCIAL CONDITIONS**

### **Paragraph 9**

The Participants decide that all forms of cooperation provided in this Memorandum of Understanding will be carried out within the limits of their respective annual budgets.

### **Paragraph 10**

The costs of taking part in international congresses, conferences and symposia under this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne by the sending Participant, unless the Participants have decided otherwise in writing.

### **Paragraph 11**

The expenses for international travel, accommodation, food and internal transportation of the partakers of exchange under this Memorandum of Understanding will be covered by the sending Participant, unless the Participants decide otherwise, in writing, through diplomatic channels.

### **Paragraph 12**

The sending Participant will ensure that the partakers of exchange under this Memorandum of Understanding have health insurance and accident insurance, unless the right to health care services is granted pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of the State of the receiving Participant.

### **Paragraph 13**

The organisational and financial provisions of cooperation envisaged in this Memorandum of Understanding will be determined by specific arrangements between relevant institutions, organisations and associations, in accordance with the laws and regulations of each State. In the absence of such documents, the aforementioned provisions will be determined

through bilateral consultations between the Participants, on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the legislation of the State of each Participant.

#### **Paragraph 14**

This Memorandum of Understanding will not exclude the possibility of carrying out other projects and exchanges, which are in line with the purposes of this Memorandum and are held at the sending Participant's request and cost.

### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Paragraph 15**

This Memorandum of Understanding will not create any legal or financial obligations and/or rights under international law and/or the respective national legislation of both States.

#### **Paragraph 16**

Any difference regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved by consultations between the Participants, and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

#### **Paragraph 17**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified, at any time, by mutual written consent of the Participants through diplomatic channels. Such modifications will take effect from the date of signature. Any modification will not affect any of the commitments and/or benefits arising from this Memorandum of Understanding before the modification becomes effective, unless the Participants decide otherwise, in writing, through diplomatic channels.

#### **Paragraph 18**

Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by notifying the other, in writing, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate it. The termination will become effective six (6) months after the date of receipt of the written

notification by the other Participant, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the implementation of the programmes and projects that the Participants have decided upon, prior to the termination hereof.

### Paragraph 19

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into operation on the date of its signature. It will remain in operation for five (5) years and will be renewed automatically for one period of five (5) years unless terminated, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Paragraph 18.

Signed in **Brussels** on the **29<sup>th</sup> of February 2024** in two copies in the English language.

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



Martin Polaschek

The Minister of Education, Sport  
and Youth of the Republic of  
Cyprus



Athena Michaelidou