

PROTOCOL

of the first Meeting of the Joint Committee
in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Education,
Science and Culture between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Cabinet of
Ministers of Ukraine signed on 14 March 2018 in Kyiv
(Vienna, 14 and 15 January 2025)

On 14 and 15 January 2025, the first meeting of the Joint Committee in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement in the fields of Education, Science and Culture between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine signed on 14 March 2018 took place in Vienna.

The Joint Committee, which was headed on the Austrian Side by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and on the Ukrainian Side by Yevhen Kudriavets, Ministry of Education and Science.

Both Sides discussed the state of Austrian-Ukrainian relations in the fields of culture, education and science and prepared proposals for further cooperation in these areas.

The Joint Committee adopted the first Programme for the implementation of this Agreement, which is attached as Annex 1. This Programme shall take effect on the day of the signature of this Protocol and shall remain in force until 31 December 2030 or until a new Programme is signed.

The list of delegation members is attached to this Protocol as Annex 2.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee shall take place in Ukraine. The date of the meeting of the Joint Committee shall be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Done in Vienna on 15 January 2025 in two originals written in English, German and, Ukrainian all texts being equally authentic. In case of any disputes in the application or interpretation of the provisions of this Protocol the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF AUSTRIA



Ambassador
DDr. Christoph Thun-Hohenstein,
Director-General of International Cultural
Relations

FOR THE
CABINET OF MINISTERS OF
UKRAINE



Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Ukraine to the Republic of Austria
Dr. Vasyl Khymynets

PROGRAMME

**OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
CULTURE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AUSTRIA AND THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE FOR THE
YEARS 2025 - 2030**

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (hereinafter referred as the “two Sides”),

in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Education, Science and Culture between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine signed on 14 March 2018,

in order to promote and enhance the bilateral cooperation and to strengthen European integration processes,

have adopted the following Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Science and Culture between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for the years 2025 - 2030.

I. SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Article 1
Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The two Sides appreciate the dynamic bilateral cooperation under the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed on 6 June 2003.

The two Sides appreciate the efficient and positive role of the Austrian-Ukrainian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation under the Agreement specified in the first paragraph of this Article.

The two Sides express their appreciation for the scientific cooperation between the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine based on the bilateral agreement originally signed in February 1996 and re-signed in December 2018.

Article 2
Cooperation in Higher Education

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between their institutions of higher education through participation in joint projects and the exchange of academic personnel, launching joint (double degree) master’s and PhD programme, exchange experiences in expanding the best practices of implementing interdisciplinary and

double degree programme in higher education as well as information based on the agreements directly concluded between the interested institutions. These agreements define the concrete scope and forms of cooperation.

The two Sides support the introduction of Ukrainian studies programmes for study and research in the higher education institutions of the Republic of Austria, including in the framework of the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies. The Ukrainian Side provides expert academic support to development and provision of Ukrainian studies in Austria.

With this in mind the two Sides welcome the activities of the OeAD Cooperation Office in Lviv; especially in the fields human health, reconstruction and cultural heritage.

The two Sides welcome the continuation of cooperation of the Technical University Vienna (TU Wien) and the Lviv Polytechnic National University in the field of Architecture and Urban Development which started more than 25 years ago.

The two Sides welcome the collaboration of the University of Applied Sciences for Management & Communication and the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv in the field of journalism and media management which started in 2015 with UCU's International School of Multimedia Journalism (ISMJ) on the initiative of the OeAD Cooperation Office in Lviv. Annual Meetings take place alternately in Austria and in Ukraine.

The two Sides express their appreciation for the work of the Austrian-Ukrainian bilateral Historical Commission which was established in 2016 with support of the OeAD Cooperation Office in Lviv. Annual Meetings and activities take place alternately in Austria and in Ukraine.

Article 3 Lecturers

The Austrian Side welcomes the exchange of lecturers and informs that according to the University Act 2002 (Universitätsgesetz 2002; UG 2002) the overall responsibility for lecturers lies within the competence of the universities themselves.

Article 4 Recognition of Diplomas

Mutual recognition of diplomas, academic degrees and higher education qualifications shall be applied in accordance with the Convention on the Recognition of Qualification concerning Higher Education in the European Region of 1997 ("Lisbon Convention") and national legislation of the two Sides.

Article 5 Scholarships

The two Sides will inform each other about the programmes of studies for foreigners and possibilities of scholarships being exchanged in accordance with their legislation.

The two Sides will also inform each other about scholarship programmes for specialisation and advanced training of students, post graduates and young scholars offered by their States.

The Austrian Side informs that Austrian scholarships can be found via internet on www.grants.at.

The Ukrainian Side informs that Ukrainian scholarships can be found via internet on <https://mon.gov.ua>.

Article 6

EU – Educational, Research and Innovation Programmes

The two Sides welcome further cooperation among higher education institutions especially with regard to the EU-Programme Erasmus+ and the European Higher Education Area.

The two Sides welcome further cooperation and joint participation of higher education institutions and research institutions in projects under the EU's research and innovation programmes, in particular Horizon Europe.

II. PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION

Article 7

Cooperation in Primary and Secondary Education

The two Sides continue to share experience related to all levels of education. During the validity of the programme they agree to put a special focus on:

- the development of primary and secondary education,
- the development of curricula and teaching principles such as environmental education,
- the sharing of expertise in the field of pedagogical testing, approval and publication of textbooks,
- the evaluation of educational processes and results as well as
- the use of information and communication technology within the educational system
- the sharing of STEM strategies,
- the exchange of information, experience and scientific documentation in the field of inclusion of children with special educational needs,
- the sharing of initiatives strengthening media literacy, trust in science and democracy
- the sharing of strategies to address teacher shortage
- the exchange of information about the admission of Ukrainian children into the Austrian education system
- the exchange of information in adult education with a view to improve education and specialisation of adults

- and the exchange of information, experience, methodology and documents in music, art and classic dance education of children.

In this regard, both Sides encourage an exchange of experts between the respective educational institutions.

Article 8 First Language Teaching in Austria

The Austrian Side informs that, in accordance with its legislation, “first language classes“ are held in the Republic of Austria, in order to improve pupils’ first language skills other than German.

The Ukrainian Side expresses its high interest in the optimal implementation of “first language classes“ for children from Ukraine living in the Republic of Austria.

Selection, appointment and payment of first language teachers in the Republic of Austria lies within the responsibility of the Austrian educational authorities.

Article 9 German as a Foreign Language

Ukrainian teachers of German have the opportunity to take part in online webinars and “Österreich-Tage” organised by the Programme “Kultur und Sprache” as well as to use the open educational resources platform with methodical and didactic materials. More information can be found at www.kulturundsprache.at.

Article 10 Austrian Language Diploma for German

The Austrian Side offers a certification system for German language proficiency, the “Austrian Language Diploma for German” (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch/ÖSD), which is already affiliated with four licensed partnerships in Ukraine. Under certain circumstances further institutions of Ukraine (universities, language schools etc.) may apply for a partnership license. More information can be found at www.osd.at.

Article 11 European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

Austria as host country of the European Centre for Modern Languages welcomes the cooperation with Ukraine within the ECML in the field of language policy issues at a European level.

Article 12 EU Cooperation in Education and Training and Erasmus+

The two Sides encourage participation of Ukraine in EU cooperation in education and training within the European Education Area as well as the use of the “Erasmus+” programme to enhance cooperation at all levels of the education system.

Article 13
Austrian Educational Coordinator and OeAD – Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation

The two Sides welcome and support the activities of the OeAD, the Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation, and of the Austrian Educational Coordinator located at the OeAD Cooperation Office in Odesa/currently Uzhhorod (acting on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the OeAD – Agency for Education and Internationalisation) in the field of educational cooperation between the two States, e.g.:

- building capacity in education institutions for the psychosocial support of students and staff affected by war,
- building capacity of teachers in STEM and language subjects for online teaching
- increasing the labour market relevance of vocational education and training through enhancing cooperation between schools and companies,
- teacher training for the introduction of new approaches to teaching and learning,
- enhancing leadership and school management competences of leaders of educational institutions.

The two Sides appreciate and support the activities of the OeAD – Agency for Education and Internationalisation acting on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in the field of educational cooperation between the two States.

Article 14
Holocaust Education

Both Sides welcome their common goal of promoting education and research on the Holocaust. Both Sides will explore the potential for closer cooperation in the field of education about the Holocaust and in the field of prevention of antisemitism through education between institutions in Austria, such as memorial sites and archives, and corresponding institutions in Ukraine.

III. CULTURE AND ARTS

Article 15
General review

The two Sides emphasise the importance of cooperation between their States in the direct cooperation between cultural institutions, including the Ukrainian institute, organisations and individuals in both States.

The two Sides approve and support the increased visibility of diversity in arts and culture, including the recognition of the achievements of women and people of diverse sexual orientations.

Article 16

Visual Arts, architecture, design, fashion, photography and media art

The two Sides will cooperate in the field of visual arts, architecture, design, fashion, photography and media art. They will encourage the exchange of exhibitions and cooperation between artists, experts and institutions, including collaborative projects.

Article 17

Museums and Galleries

The two Sides welcome direct cooperation between museums, galleries, artist-associations and other organisations from the two States, including exchanges of experts, curators, exhibitions and information as well as the introduction of audio guides in Ukrainian language by Austrian museums and galleries. They also encourage the realisation of other activities agreed upon directly by the interested organisations.

Article 18

Performing Arts

The two Sides will encourage the direct exchange of ensembles, artists and experts in the fields of music, theatre, dance and performance, with a view to realise guest tours and participate in international festivals in both States as well as collaborative projects.

Article 19

Film

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation in film production as well as the participation of their respective artists in international film festivals, and the direct cooperation between their film funding bodies through the exchange of experts and information.

The two Sides agree to cooperate at the European level, in particular within the framework of the “Creative Europe” Programme of the European Commission and within the framework of EURIMAGES, the European Cinema Support Fund of the Council of Europe.

The two Sides encourage direct cooperation between their Film Archives, between the Film Archive Austria in Vienna, as well as the Austrian Film Museum, and the State Film Fund of Ukraine, with the aim to exchange – among others – information, publications and experts.

Concrete forms of cooperation and the range of exchanges will be agreed upon directly between the respective institutions.

Article 20

Literature and libraries

The two Sides encourage the exchange of as well as direct contacts between writers' associations in the two States.

The two Sides underline the importance of translating and publishing literary works in the other country and encourage direct contacts and cooperation between their respective translators' associations and publishers.

The Austrian Side informs that the Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport of the Republic of Austria gives grants for the translation of Austrian authors in the field of fiction into a foreign language. More information is to be found at <https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/kunst-und-kultur>.

The Ukrainian Side informs that the specialised State institution "Ukrainian Book Institute" implements the Translation Support Program for translations of Ukrainian literary works into other languages ("Translate Ukraine"), which compensates fully or partially expenses of the publisher on the translation and publishing of the Ukrainian literature in foreign language with funds from the State budget of Ukraine in accordance with its national legislation. More information is to be found at <https://ubi.org.ua/en/activity/programa-pidtrimki-perekladiv>.

The two Sides welcome and encourage direct cooperation of libraries.

Article 21 Archives

The two Sides express their interest in cooperation between the Austrian State Archives in Vienna on the one hand and the State Archival Service of Ukraine on the other hand in fields such as bilateral archival exhibitions, research and digital copies.

The two Sides also welcome direct cooperation between other archives in the Republic of Austria and archives in Ukraine on the research of archival materials important for the history of the two States.

Any cooperation is to be arranged between the respective archives in both States.

Article 22 Cultural Heritage

The two Sides encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, keeping each other informed about relevant national laws and regulations.

The two Sides agree to cooperate in the field of cultural heritage preservation on the basis of international legal documents from UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organisations.

Both Sides encourage the direct cooperation between institutions in the fields of the safeguarding and protection of cultural heritage, exchange of professionals and academic experts, information and publications.

Both Sides encourage cooperation with a view to preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national laws and international conventions as well as exchange of knowledge about provenance research and restitution.

The two Sides welcome the direct cooperation between the Federal Monuments Authority and other similar institutions in the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine and other similar institutions in Ukraine.

Interested institutions will exchange experts, exhibitions and publications and, in accordance with their interests and possibilities, will form joint expert teams with a view to cooperate in the field of research and protection of cultural heritage.

The two Sides encourage cooperation in the management of transnational sites on the World Heritage List and cooperation in the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention concerning the Nomination and Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The two Sides encourage cooperation in the implementation of conventions of international organisations that the Sides are signatories to.

Article 23 Baukultur

The two Sides approve and support the importance of the concept of Baukultur as a sustainable and holistic approach to improve the quality of our living environment.

The two Sides encourage a holistic approach in shaping our living environment, considering social, economic, ecological, and cultural perspectives.

The two Sides encourage cooperation in improving the quality of our built and living environment, keeping each other informed about relevant regulations and initiatives.

The two Sides agree to apply holistic systems of quality criteria to set up a culture of high quality Baukultur for everyone (Austrian Federal Guidelines for Building Culture, Davos Baukultur Quality System, New European Bauhaus Criteria).

Article 24 Office Ukraine. Support for Ukrainian Artists

The Austrian Side informs about the Office Ukraine. Support for Ukrainian Artists which has been set up for Ukrainian artists and cultural workers in all disciplines fleeing war in Ukraine and seeking shelter in Austria. It serves as a liaison between them and the Austrian art scene. More information is to be found at <https://www.artistshelp-ukraine.at>

IV. OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION

Article 25

Work of Embassies, Permanent Representations, the Austrian Cultural Forum in Kyiv, the OeAD Cooperation Office in Lviv and Austrian Libraries

The two Sides welcome the activities of the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Ukraine and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Austria together with the Austrian Cultural Forum in Kyiv as well as the OeAD Cooperation Office in Lviv aimed at fostering and promoting the cultural and scientific cooperation between both States.

Furthermore, the work of the Austria Libraries in Lviv, Drohobych, Chernivtsi, Kyiv and Kharkiv is highly appreciated.

Arts and culture have an important, impulse-giving role in the development of an ecologically and socially sustainable, circular society (climate and circular culture). Therefore, the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Ukraine and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Austria are encouraged to cooperate with cultural, educational and research institutions, especially with regard to interdisciplinary projects and initiatives in the fields of climate culture and digital humanism. Digital humanism is to be understood as the pursuit of supporting people through digital technologies, especially artificial intelligence, and of protecting people from adverse effects of these technologies. Furthermore, the Permanent Representations of Austria and Ukraine accredited to relevant multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, UNESCO, the United Nations University and the Council of Europe are encouraged to cooperate in these fields.

Article 26

Regional Cooperation in Education and Training

The two Sides recognise their excellent cooperation, in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, especially within their role as Coordinators of Priority Area 9 “People and Skills”.

The two Sides welcome cooperation in other relevant transnational networks and projects, where appropriate.

Article 27

International Organisations

The two Sides welcome the cooperation between the Republic of Austria and Ukraine in international organisations concerned with culture, science and education, including cooperation in the framework of EUNIC clusters on the level of diplomatic missions of Ukraine, in accordance with the conditions set out.

V. GENERAL AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Article 28 Exchange of Experts

The sending Side will provide all required information about the experts to be sent in due time. The receiving Side will confirm its acceptance as soon as possible. The sending Side will bear the international travel expenses. The receiving Side will bear all other travelling costs arising from the activity of the experts on its territory.

Both Sides offer experts free accommodation and a daily allowance in accordance with the national regulations.

The two Sides assume that all persons sent within the scope of this work programme have sufficient health and accident insurance. If, in an exceptional case, this insurance cover should be insufficient, the receiving Side shall provide all urgently required medical care services (except dental care and treatment of chronic illnesses) free of charge. The extent of the medical care to be provided in either country shall correspond to the liability of the statutory general health insurance. In both States, the scope of hospital care is limited to that of the general contribution category.

Article 29 Exchange of Lecturers

Lecturers as well as their families (life partners/spouses and minor children living in the same household) shall be subject to the provisions of employment, residence, customs and tax laws of the respective Side, as well as to relevant international regulations.

Both Sides will endeavour to provide the greatest possible support to the lecturers and their families.

A working contract shall be concluded between the employer and the lecturer no later than 4 weeks after the start of work, which stipulates work performance, the amount and payment dates of the salary, service and technical supervision, holiday entitlement, insurance cover and termination provisions.

The Austrian Side will grant Austrian lecturers a salary and travel allowances. The financial conditions for lecturers from Ukraine are regulated according to the University Act 2002 and the Austrian University of Applied Sciences Study Act 1993 (FHStG 1993), all matters in the field of teaching are regulated by the universities themselves within the framework of their autonomy.

The Ukrainian Side will remunerate lecturers by means of monthly payments in accordance with national regulations. Within the scope of possibilities, the receiving institution will provide adequate accommodation.

Basic medical care will be provided in accordance with national regulations of the respective Side.

Article 30
Austrian Educational Coordinator

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine will provide office space for the OeAD Cooperation Office currently located in Uzhhorod as soon as the office is reinstalled in Odesa. The Austrian Side will cover staff costs for the Austrian educational coordinator as well as the costs for joint cooperation projects.

Article 31
Provisions for Exhibition Exchange

Exhibitions will be held in accordance with the standard international rules. Any other necessary arrangements will be made through diplomatic channels.

VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 32
Entry into Force and Duration

This Programme of Cooperation shall take effect on the date of its signature and shall remain in effect until 31 December 2030. If no new Programme of Cooperation has been adopted by that date, its validity shall be extended until the entry into force of a new Programme of Cooperation.

The next Programme of Cooperation will be adopted at the next meeting of the Joint Commission, which will be held in Ukraine. The exact date of the meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels.

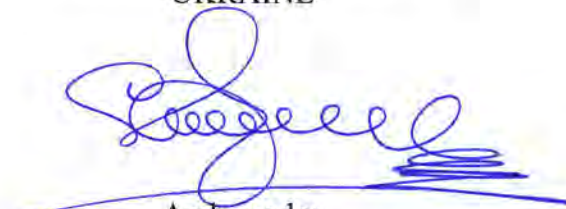
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