

## **AGREEMENT**

**between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia,  
the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and  
the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania  
on exchange of students, researchers and teaching staff**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, hereafter "the Contracting Parties",

on the basis of friendly relations between the three countries;

observing the provisions of the Agreement among the Government of the Republic of Latvia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Creation of a Common Educational Space in Higher Education within the Baltic States signed in Kretinga on 8 December, 2000;

seeking to give students, researchers and teaching staff of the Baltic States more opportunities to study and carry out research at state-recognised and state-financed higher education and research institutions in the Baltic States;

desiring to facilitate the mobility of people of the Baltic States;

have agreed on the following:

### **Article 1**

The Contracting Parties shall support the development of direct contacts and co-operation between higher education and research institutions of the Baltic States.

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the exchange of students, researchers and teaching staff, as well as the exchange of information between higher education and research institutions of the Baltic States within agreements of these institutions.

### **Article 2**

The Contracting Parties shall exchange students of all study cycles of higher education, giving preference to Master and Doctoral studies and students of any level study programmes in the field of language and culture of the states of the Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties shall receive and nominate students, granting up to 50 scholarship-months per academic year for each Contracting Party each separate scholarship not exceeding 10 months. The scholarships are intended for exchange students who are not applying for a degree.

### **Article 3**

The students nominated for studies in higher education institutions in another Baltic State under this Agreement shall meet the following requirements:

- 1) Enrolment in a higher education institution in the student's home country;

- 2) Good academic results;
- 3) Sufficient knowledge of the language(s) of instruction.

#### **Article 4**

Student exchange in accordance with Article 2 shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- 1) The receiving Contracting Party shall offer the exchange students:
  - a) a scholarship in accordance with national regulations to cover living costs and accommodation in a higher education institution's hostel;
  - b) tuition free studies or reimbursement of tuition fees (in Latvia and Estonia – only for state financed study programmes, otherwise tuition fee should be covered from private resources).
- 2) The sending Contracting Party may cover return travel expenses to the receiving Contracting Party for the scholarship holder once during an academic year.

#### **Article 5**

Every academic year the Contracting Parties shall receive and nominate teaching staff and researchers for research work for a total period of up to 9 months for each Contracting party, each separate visit not exceeding 3 months.

The exchange of teaching staff and researchers shall be governed by the following financial provisions:

- 1) The receiving Contracting Party shall offer a scholarship as per national regulations to cover living expenses and accommodation in a higher education or research institution's hostel.
- 2) The sending Contracting Party may cover return travel expenses to the receiving Contracting Party for the scholarship holder.

#### **Article 6**

Every application received from a candidate under Articles 2 and 5 of this Agreement shall contain:

- 1) an official letter of acceptance from the host institution;
- 2) in case of students – certified copies of diplomas with supplements, if at least one full cycle of higher education has been finished, and/ or transcripts of academic records, if a full cycle of higher education has not been finished, with certified translation in English or the language of the receiving Contracting Party;
- 3) in case of teaching staff and researchers – a copy of Masters degree or an equivalent diploma or research degree diploma with certified translation in English or the language of the receiving Contracting Party;
- 4) Curriculum Vitae;
- 5) motivation letter;
- 6) 2 recommendations for students; 1 recommendation for teaching staff and researchers;
- 7) a completed application form;
- 8) a detailed study or research plan;

9) a list of publications or scientific works (for teaching staff and researchers).

The documents shall be prepared in English, or the official language of the receiving Contracting Party, in two identical sets (original and a copy). Incomplete applications shall not be considered.

#### **Article 7**

The Contracting Parties shall support the participation of representatives of higher education and research institutions in international summer schools organized by higher education institutions.

The Contracting Parties shall annually receive and nominate up to 3 participants for international summer schools.

Every application of a candidate for international summer schools shall contain documents required by the receiving Contracting Party. The required documents shall be listed in application forms for international summer schools or included in the calls for nominations.

The receiving Lithuanian and Estonian Parties shall offer:

- 1) a scholarship as per national regulations to cover living costs and accommodation in a student hostel;
- 2) reimbursement of participation costs set by the receiving institution.

The receiving Latvian Party shall cover tuition fee for the international summer school (includes tuition/ registration, accommodation, living, local transport expenses in accordance with the international summer school programme and field trip).

The sending Contracting Party may cover return travel expenses to the receiving Contracting Party of a scholarship holder.

#### **Article 8**

The Contracting Parties shall nominate their candidates for periods of study, research work and international summer schools and send all the required documents to the receiving Contracting Party by 1 May at the latest.

The receiving Contracting Party shall inform the sending Contracting Party in writing whether the nominees have been accepted by 10 June at the latest.

#### **Article 9**

The information about the scholarships offered by the Contracting Parties, application procedures and deadlines shall be published on the web pages of the institutions administrating the implementation of the Agreement:

- in Latvia: on the web page of the State Education Development Agency ([www.viaa.gov.lv](http://www.viaa.gov.lv)), as well as on the web page of the Ministry of Education and Science ([www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv));
- in Estonia: on the web page of the Archimedes Foundation ([www.studyinestonia.ee](http://www.studyinestonia.ee));
- in Lithuania: on the web page of the Education Exchanges Support Foundation ([www.smpf.lt](http://www.smpf.lt)).

### Article 10

Financial assistance for the activities under this Agreement shall be subject to the available financial resources of the Contracting Parties.

### Article 11

The Contracting Parties shall monitor the implementation of the Agreement and, if necessary, make amendments.

Any amendments to this Agreement shall be made on the proposal of at least one of the Contracting Parties and upon the consent of all the others. These changes and/or amendments shall be confirmed by signatures of authorised representatives of the Contracting Parties and shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

Any disputes concerning the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled by means of consultations and negotiations.

### Article 12

This Agreement shall enter into force on the day of the last signature and remain valid until 31 December, 2016. Either of the Parties may terminate this Agreement by written notice to the other Contracting Parties at least three months prior to the proposed date of the termination. After one of the Parties terminates the Agreement, it shall remain valid for the other two Contracting Parties.

### Article 13


The students, teaching staff and researchers studying or doing research under this Agreement at the time of the termination of the Agreement shall be entitled to complete their studies or research work at the same institution and under the same conditions as during the validity of the Agreement.

The Agreement is made in triplicate, in the official languages of the Contracting Parties and in English. All texts are authentic. In the case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry  
of Education and Science  
of the Republic of Latvia

For the Ministry  
of Education and Research  
of the Republic of Estonia

For the Ministry  
of Education and Science  
of the Republic of Lithuania

  
.....  
**Minister**  
**Roberts Kīlis**

  
.....  
**Minister**  
**Jaak Aaviksoo**

  
.....  
**Minister**  
**Gintaras Steponavičius**

In Riga on 15 Dec., 2011

In \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

In Vilnius on 29 Dec., 2011