

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**ON**

**COOPERATION IN VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**PREAMBLE**

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation  
(hereinafter – SERI)

and

the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia  
(hereinafter – Ministry),

WISHING to further promote the friendly relations existing between the two countries,

CONSIDERING the importance of effective and work-based vocational and professional education  
and training systems for their economies and societies,

RECOGNISING the benefit to be derived by both countries from the development of the cooperation in  
vocational and professional education and training,

ACKNOWLEDGING the vital role of companies and other economic actors committed to vocational  
and professional education and training, and

WILLING to strengthen their cooperation and to encourage partnerships between Swiss and Latvian  
companies, organisations, institutions and other stakeholders in the field of vocational and profession-  
al education and training,

have established the present Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter – MOU):

## **I. COOPERATION IN VOCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

1. SERI and Ministry will endeavour to promote and strengthen the development of cooperation in vocational and professional education and training between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
2. To this end, and in view of the good relationship between the two countries, both SERI and Ministry may hold consultations, whenever appropriate, in the field of vocational and professional education and training.
3. Whenever appropriate, SERI and Ministry may organise and/or promote activities for the exchange of experience and best practices in the field of vocational and professional education and training, striving to include the relevant and interested social partners of both countries.
4. With the aim of promoting the transfer of expertise in the field of vocational and professional education and training, SERI and Ministry welcome and encourage the strengthening of existing collaborations, as well as the establishment of new partnerships, direct institutional links and bottom-up cooperation between Swiss and Latvian companies, organisations, institutions and other stakeholders on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, and taking due consideration of the autonomy of the respective companies, organisations, institutions and other stakeholders.
5. To foster the above-mentioned transfer of expertise and cooperation in the field of vocational and professional education and training between Swiss and Latvian companies, organisations, institutions and other stakeholders, SERI and Ministry will endeavour to facilitate contacts, provide organisational assistance and support the use of available and applicable national and international funding instruments.
6. Considering the importance of vocational and professional education and training for economic and social development as well as for innovation, both SERI and Ministry are committed to promoting the image of vocational and professional education and training at international level and in multilateral organisations.

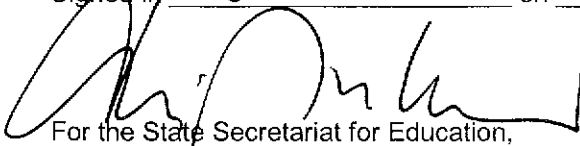
## **II. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

7. SERI and Ministry agree that the above-mentioned activities shall be carried out in accordance with the respective national laws and regulations in force, within the framework of the respective national policies and procedures in the field of vocational and professional education and training and in accordance with international treaties and obligations applicable to each country.
8. The implementation of activities under this MOU is contingent upon the availability of national budget funds and other resources.
9. This MOU is an expression of the intentions of SERI and Ministry and of the understandings reached between them. It is not a legally binding treaty creating rights or obligations.
10. SERI and Ministry agree that any differences arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be settled amicably through negotiation or consultation.
11. This MOU may be amended in writing by mutual consent of SERI and Ministry.

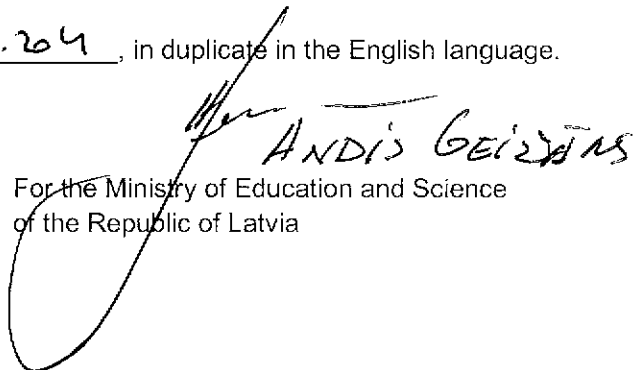
### III. ENTRY INTO EFFECT, VALIDITY AND TERMINATION

12. This MOU comes into effect on the date of its signing by SERI and Ministry. It may be terminated by either side at any time by written notice at least six months in advance of the proposed termination.
13. SERI and Ministry may decide to continue the implementation of projects or cooperative activities conducted under this MOU and not fully implemented at the time of its termination.

Signed in Winterthur on 17.09.2014, in duplicate in the English language.



For the State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation  
of the Swiss Confederation



ANDIS GEIZANS

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