

**JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT
BETWEEN**

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

AND

**THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

**CONCERNING
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND TRAINING**

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany, hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”,

share the opinion

that current developments in relations between the two countries in the field of education have demonstrated the importance of education for bilateral relations and for strengthening their mutual friendship. They therefore share an interest in consolidating and extending their current cooperation;

that both countries recognize the importance of vocational education and training as a key factor for socio-economic development and social progress in general and wish to endorse their interest in continuing to promote vocational education and training along the lines of work based learning in order to ensure a quick and appropriate transition to working life;

that stronger cooperation between the two countries in the field of vocational education and training should enhance the knowledge of the policies, systems

and measures of the two governments and promote the exchange of models and methods, the dissemination of best practice and experience, and the development of material and studies in areas of common interest;

that it is of interest for the promotion of cooperation in the field of vocational education and training to organize and hold conferences, seminars and courses and other activities that make it possible to address topics which are of interest to both countries;

In view of these considerations, the Sides envisage to cooperate within the framework of their respective remits and on the basis of mutuality and joint benefit.

1. Cooperation in the field of vocational education and training

The Sides declare their intention to support the following measures:

- Organizing events aimed at exchanging information and documents which contribute towards improving knowledge of the vocational education and training systems and structures in both countries and enable a comparative analysis.
- Facilitating contacts between experts and stakeholders in the field of education and training in both countries to encourage exchanges of methods and best practice in shaping and planning training courses through meetings, specific seminars, study visits.
This would require naming competent contact persons in both countries for all types of initiatives.
- Facilitating contacts and exchanges between teaching staff in both countries, either under European programmes or through visits to vocational schools or companies.
- Promoting contacts and exchanges between responsible players in companies in both countries that cooperate in vocational education and training.

- Assisting coordination between stakeholders in companies, chambers of commerce and education authorities and national bodies in both countries.
- Development of forms of cooperation between Latvian and German companies involved in dual training projects in Latvia (i.a. implementation of dual vocational education and training elements as pilot projects in Latvia).

2. Funding of a post at the German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (AHK), Riga office

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany, intends to provide funding for a post over a period of three years. This post will be established at the German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (AHK), Riga office, to specifically support pilot projects for implementation of dual vocational education and training elements:

- the identification of good practice examples;
- advice for relevant stakeholders;
- the establishment of contact between Latvian and German companies and education providers;
- mutual exchange of experiences regarding the development of quality standards;
- mutual exchange of experiences regarding the funding of pilot projects and assistance in fundraising;
- measures for marketing and communication;

3. Framework for activities and measures

The framework for activities and measures under this Joint Declaration of

Intent will be as follows:

- The development of the proposed measures will involve the use of instruments that are considered necessary and are coordinated by both Sides.
- All activities that are carried out under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be funded, in conformity with the legislation applying to this area, by the Sides in accordance with the availability of budget funds and by other public and private legal persons who may participate in the activities. Priority will be given to the possibility of using European funding.
- This Joint Declaration of Intent is supposed to be applied initially for a period of three years from the date of its signing. Its application may be extended.
- Either Side may end the cooperation by informing the other in writing.
- Both Sides share the view that a premature termination of the cooperation according to this Joint Declaration of Intent will not prevent the completion of bilateral cooperation measures that were started during its period of application.

Signed at *Valmiera* on *8th of July, 2013* in duplicate in the English language.

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

For the
Federal Ministry of Education and
Research of the Federal Republic
of Germany

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