

Agreement
between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia
and
the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
on Co-operation in the Field of Education, Youth and Sports
for the Period 2012-2015

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as „the Contracting Parties"), desiring to strengthen and develop friendly relations between the Contracting Parties on the basis of co-operation in the field of education, youth and sports, and convinced that this co-operation shall contribute to further development of mutual relations and enhance mutual understanding between the societies of the two countries, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties, guided by the principle of reciprocity, shall support co-operation and exchange of experience in the field of education, youth and sports.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall support and encourage:

- a) exchange of academic and pedagogical literature,
- b) participation of gifted pupils and students in specialised and art competitions and Olympiads, as well as in international programmes,
- c) participation of experts in international congresses, conferences, seminars and symposia held in the country of the other Contracting Party.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties, guided by the principle of reciprocity, shall exchange information on issues concerning the governance, organisation and content of basic (primary and lower secondary), upper secondary, professional and public higher education.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties shall exchange, upon request, information and documentary materials on the history, geography and culture of their respective countries.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall promote direct co-operation of educational institutions implemented on the basis of agreements on direct co-operation.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall support direct co-operation between basic (primary and lower secondary), upper secondary, vocational schools and public higher education institutions within the framework of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and other organisations' educational programmes and projects.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall support teaching of the language and literature of the country of the other Contracting Party. For this purpose the Contracting Parties shall, based on the requirements of the receiving Contracting Party, seek to send teachers of the Czech language and literature and the Latvian language and literature to teach at public higher education institutions in the country of the respective Contracting Party.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties may exchange experts in the field of education, youth and sports for a period of fifteen (15) days each year in order to study issues related to education, sports and youth activities and to discuss further co-operation.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall promote exchange of academic staff and researchers at public higher education and research institutions for the purpose of study and lecturing visits for a total period of three (3) months each year. The duration of individual visits shall not exceed one (1) month.

Article 10

The Contracting Parties shall promote exchange of students of Bachelor, Master and Doctoral study programmes organised at public higher education institutions covering a total period of thirty (30) months each year. The duration of one study visit may range from a minimum of two (2) to a maximum of ten (10) months.

Article 11

For the purpose of promoting the study and enhancing the knowledge of the language and culture of the country of the other Contracting Party, the Contracting Parties, guided by the principle of reciprocity, shall mutually provide each year:

- a) two (2) scholarships for attending the International Summer Schools organized by the higher education institutions of the Republic of Latvia;
- b) two (2) scholarships for attending the Summer School of Slavonic Studies in the Czech Republic.

Article 12

The Contracting Parties, guided by the principle of reciprocity, shall promote direct co-operation between youth organisations and associations that implement youth work, including activities of informal education programmes.

Article 13

The Contracting Parties, guided by the principle of reciprocity, shall support co-operation in the field of sports and physical education between the relevant sports institutions and organisations of the Contracting Parties' respective countries.

Article 14

The obligations of each Contracting Party pursuant to this Agreement are subject to its respective national legal regulations and depend on the availability of the relevant financial resources.

Article 15

The sending Contracting Party may cover travel expenses to the country of the receiving Contracting Party and back for persons received under this Agreement.

Article 16

1. The activities of language and literature teachers received under Article 7 of this Agreement are subject to the national legal regulations of the country of the receiving Contracting Party.
2. Remuneration of the teachers shall also be subject to the legal regulations of the country of the receiving Contracting Party.

3. The nomination of new teachers and the extension of the stay of the serving teachers shall be notified to the receiving Contracting Party no later than 31 May each calendar year.

Article 17

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit to the receiving Contracting Party its nomination of candidates under Article 8 of this Agreement, including their personal data and a programme proposal, no later than two (2) months prior to the scheduled beginning of the visit.

2. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party of its acceptance of the candidates no later than thirty (30) days before the scheduled beginning of the visit.

3. The sending Contracting Party shall notify the receiving Contracting Party of the exact date and details of the arrival of the candidates no later than two (2) weeks before the beginning of the visit.

4. Financial conditions for receiving the candidates arriving under the Article 8 of this Agreement are agreed upon with the receiving Contracting Party in each individual case.

Article 18

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit to the receiving Contracting Party its nomination of candidates under Article 9 of this Agreement, including documents required in the questionnaires of the receiving Contracting Party:

a) in the Republic of Latvia – to the State Education Development Agency. The Application deadline for the scholarships of the Latvian party is 1 May of the relevant calendar year;

b) in the Czech Republic – to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports no later than 31 March of the relevant calendar year.

2. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party of its acceptance of the candidates no later than thirty (30) days before the scheduled beginning of the visit.

3. The sending Contracting Party shall notify the receiving Contracting Party of the exact date and details of the arrival of the candidates no later than two (2) weeks before the beginning of the visit.

Article 19

The receiving Contracting Party shall provide the individuals accepted under Article 9 of this Agreement with the following:

- a) in the Republic of Latvia – scholarship in the amount, annually published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia <http://www.izm.gov.lv> and the State Education Development Agency <http://www.viaa.gov.lv>;
- b) in the Czech Republic – meals and personal allowance in line with the national legal regulations in force.

Article 20

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit its nomination of candidates under Article 10 of this Agreement including documents required in the questionnaires of the receiving Contracting Party:

- a) in the Republic of Latvia – to the State Education Development Agency no later than 1 May of the relevant calendar year;
- b) in the Czech Republic – to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports no later than 31 March of the relevant calendar year.

2. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party of its acceptance of the candidates no later than 1 July of the relevant calendar year.

3. The sending Contracting Party shall notify the receiving Contracting Party of the details concerning the arrival of the accepted individuals no later than two (2) weeks before the beginning of the study visit.

4. The candidate's command of the language of the country of the receiving Contracting Party or a foreign language agreed upon by the receiving Contracting Party is a precondition for accepting the candidate for the study visit.

Article 21

The receiving Contracting Party shall provide the individuals accepted under Article 10 of this Agreement with the following:

- a) in the Republic of Latvia – tuition free studies for state financed higher education institutions' study programmes and scholarship in the amount, annually published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia <http://www.izm.gov.lv> and the State Education Development Agency <http://www.viaa.gov.lv>;

- b) in the Czech Republic – study for free at public higher education institutions, accommodation and meals at higher education establishments under the same conditions as those applying to the citizens of the country of the receiving Contracting Party and scholarship in compliance with the national legal regulations.

Article 22

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit to the receiving Contracting Party its nomination of candidates under Article 11 of this Agreement including materials containing data required in the questionnaires of the receiving Contracting Party:

- a) in the Republic of Latvia – to the State Education Development Agency or the higher education institution, which is organizing the international Summer School within the deadline which is published on the website of the Ministry of Education and science of the Republic of Latvia
<http://www.izm.gov.lv> and the State Education Development Agency
<http://www.viaa.gov.lv>;
- b) in the Czech Republic – to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports no later than 31 March of the relevant calendar year.

2. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party of its acceptance of the candidates no later than 20 June of the relevant calendar year.

3. The sending Contracting Party shall notify the receiving Contracting Party of the details concerning the arrival of the accepted individuals no later than two (2) weeks before the beginning of the study visit.

Article 23

1. The Latvian Party shall cover for the international summer school participants accepted under Article 11 a) of this Agreement the course fee (lectures, workshops, the cost of accommodation, meals, study trips and transportation costs between individual school venues if the summer school is held in different places).

2. The Czech Party shall cover for the course participants accepted under Article 11 b) of this Agreement the registration fee and the cost of educational trips, meals, accommodation and instruction.

Article 24

This Agreement may be altered and amended upon mutual agreement of the Contracting Parties. Any alterations and amendments must be done in writing and shall enter into force upon signature. Such amendments are an integral part of the Agreement.

Article 25

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force until 31 December 2015. Its validity shall be automatically extended by one year provided that one of the Contracting Parties does not terminate it at least six months prior to the end of the validity period.

2. Programmes of exchange, projects and activities commenced during the lifetime of this Agreement shall be completed regardless of the validity period of this Agreement.

Article 26

On the day this Agreement enters into force the Agreement between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia on Co-operation in the Field of Education, Youth and Sports for the Period 2007 – 2010, signed in Riga on 14 August 2007, shall cease to be valid.

Done in Riga on *Jan. 31*, 2012 in duplicate, each in Latvian, Czech and English, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of any difference in interpretation of this Agreement the English text shall prevail.

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

For the Ministry
of Education, Youth and Sports
of the Czech Republic

