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Agreement

between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic on cooperation in the field of education and science for the period 2023 - 2026

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On the basis of the Agreement on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, signed in Sofia on April 1992, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Contracting Parties"), driven by the common interest to further deepen and develop their cooperation in the field of education and science, convinced that it shall contribute to the development of their relations, agreed on the following:

Article 1

Upon request the Contracting Parties shall exchange information and documents related to their national educational systems, especially concerning the legislation and implemented reforms in the field of education and science.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of education and science in the context of the EU membership of the two countries and with a view to their participation in European educational programs and scientific research.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the participation of scientific, academic and educational staff in congresses, conferences, symposia and other international scientific events, organized in the State of the other Contracting Party. For this purpose, they shall inform each other of scientific activities in the field of education and scientific research projects and opportunities for joint initiatives of mutual interest.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties shall support the cooperation of the educational institutions and the participation of pupils and students in international Olympiads, competitions and other similar events held in the other Contracting Party's state.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the direct cooperation between institutions of all levels and categories of education, including cooperation in the education of children, pupils and students with special learning needs (persons with disabilities, health and social disadvantages), carried out on the basis of direct cooperation agreements.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with the applicable national legislation in force in their countries support the activity of the Bulgarian School "Dr. Peter Beron" in Prague.

Article 7

1. The Contracting Parties may mutually exchange delegations of experts in the field of education and science for a period of up to ten (10) days annually with the purpose of discussing issues related to education and science and opportunities for future cooperation.
2. The specific conditions for each exchange, including the number of members, the composition of the delegations and the dates of the visits, shall be negotiated through the diplomatic channels between the Contracting Parties.
3. In accordance with the national laws and regulations, the sending Contracting Party shall cover all the expenses of its experts related to their visits to the host Contracting Party.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall promote the mutual exchange of academic and scientific staff of state higher education institutions and scientific organizations of the Republic of Bulgaria and public higher education and research institutions of the Czech Republic for

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study or research purposes or to deliver lectures with an overall annual quota of three (3) months. The duration of an individual visit shall last from one (1) to three (3) months.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall encourage teaching of the language of the other Contracting Party. For this purpose, they shall support the work of lecturers/teachers of the Bulgarian language and literature at the Charles University in Prague and of lecturers/teachers of the Czech language and literature at the Sofia University "Saint Kliment Ohridski".

In duly justified cases, the place of work of the lecturers/teachers of the Bulgarian language and literature in the Czech Republic or of the Czech language and literature in the Republic of Bulgaria may be changed. In such case this change shall be discussed in writing through the diplomatic channels.

Article 10

In order to popularize and improve the knowledge of the language and culture of the other country, the Contracting Parties shall provide each other annually:

a) up to eight (8) places for students or university lecturers-philologists in the Summer School of Slavonic Studies, organized by public higher education institutions in the Czech Republic;
b) up to eight (8) places for students or university lecturers-philologists in the Summer Seminars of the Bulgarian language, organized by the state higher education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 11

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the mutual exchange of students of Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral study programmes offered by state higher education institutions of the Republic of Bulgaria and public higher education institutions of the Czech Republic by providing, on the basis of reciprocity, up to three (3) scholarships for study visits with a total duration of up to twenty-seven (27) months each year. The duration of an individual study visit may vary from two (2) to maximum nine (9) months.

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GENERAL AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 12

1. The Czech Contracting Party shall ensure that its candidates, sent to the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with Articles 8, 10 and 11 of this Agreement are reimbursed their international travel costs to their destination in the Republic of Bulgaria and back provided that at the time of reimbursement of the international travel costs the candidates are employed or enrolled to study in public higher education institutions in the Czech Republic.

2. The candidates of the Bulgarian Contracting Party sent to the Czech Republic under this Agreement, shall cover their travel expenses to and from the place of study.

Article 13

The sending Contracting Party shall submit to the receiving Contracting Party a list of candidates nominated under Article 8 of this Agreement, including their personal data and a proposal for a program, not later than 2 (two) months prior to the proposed beginning of the visit. The receiving Contacting Party shall notify of its acceptance of the candidates not later than thirty (30) days before the proposed beginning of the visit. The sending Contracting Party shall provide information about the date of arrival and other relevant details not later than fourteen (14) days before starting the study/research/lecture visit.

Article 14

The receiving Contracting Party shall ensure that individuals accepted under Article 8 of this Agreement are provided with the following:

a) appropriate conditions for free of charge implementation of a study, scientific research or delivering lectures;
b) an accommodation in students dormitory or a hotel and catering in compliance with the applicable national legislation;
c) in the Czech Republic: daily subsistence allowances in compliance with the respective national legislation;
d) in the Republic of Bulgaria: scholarship in the amount as defined in the respective

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national legislation.

Article 15

1. The activities of the lecturers/teachers, approved pursuant to Article 9 of this Agreement, shall be subject to the respective national legislation of the state of the receiving Contracting Party, more specifically by the employment legislation.
2. The remuneration of the lecturers/teacher shall be also subject to the applicable national laws and regulations of the state of the receiving Contracting Party.
3. The sending Contacting Party shall inform the receiving Contracting Party about its nomination of new lecturers/teachers and/or the extension of the stay of current lecturers/teachers in writing through the diplomatic channels by 30 April of the respective calendar year.
4. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party on its opinion concerning the nomination of lecturers/teachers by 30 June of the respective calendar year.
5. All details about the activities of the lecturers/teachers at the higher education institution in the receiving Contracting Party (including workload, job description, remuneration, accommodation, etc.) shall be defined separately through the diplomatic channels.
6. The Bulgarian Contracting Party shall bear, in its capacity of the sending party, the expenses of its lecturer/teacher for transport to and from the workplace once every academic year.

Article 16

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit the receiving Contracting Party a list of candidates nominated in accordance with Article 10 of this Agreement not later than 31 March of the respective calendar year. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party about their acceptance not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the course.
2. The receiving Contracting Party shall cover the participants in the Summer Seminars in accordance with Article 10 of this Agreement the expenses for tuition fee, meals and accommodation in students' dormitory, internal travel expenses related to the approved

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training programme.

Article 17

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit to the receiving Contracting Party a list of candidates nominated in accordance with Article 11 of this Agreement not later than 31 March of the respective calendar year. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party about the admission of the candidates not later than 1 July of the respective calendar year.
2. The sending Contracting Party shall notify the receiving Contracting Party of details concerning the arrival of the approved persons not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the study visit.
3. The proficiency of the candidates in the language of the receiving Contracting Party or in a foreign language, agreed upon by this Contracting Party, shall be a prerequisite for the acceptance of the candidate for the study visit.
4. The receiving Contracting Party shall guarantee that the persons approved in accordance with Article 11 of this Agreement are provided with the following:
   a) free education under the same conditions as those applying to the nationals of the state of the receiving Contracting Party;
   b) food and accommodation in students' dormitory, under the same conditions as those applying to nationals of the state of the receiving Contracting Party.
5. The sending Contracting Party shall provide a scholarship in compliance with the respective national legislation.

Article 18

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing and it shall remain valid until 31 December 2026. The period of validity of this Agreement shall be automatically extended until the signing of new Agreement. In this subsequent period each Contracting Party may terminate the current Agreement by presenting a six (6) months written notification to the other Contracting Party. The notification period shall start on the first day of the month, following the month in which such a notification was presented.

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2. The implementation of programmes and activities, started in accordance with this Agreement during its period of validity shall continue until their completion, regardless of the termination of this Agreement, unless otherwise agree by the Parties.

Done in _____ on _____2023 in two originals, each of them in Bulgarian, Czech and English languages, where all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA	FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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