*Draft 10 January 2017*

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 of 2017 - 2020

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic (hereinafter - the Contracting Parties), appreciating the previous successful co-operation in the field of education, youth and sports, and also desiring to strengthen and develop friendly relations between the both 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 encourage:

a) participation of gifted pupils and students in competitions and Olympiads organised in the country of the other Contracting Party;

b) participation of students, academic staff, researchers and field experts in international congresses, conferences, seminars and symposia organised 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 establishment and implementation of the policy in the field of basic, general secondary, professional, higher and adult education, youth and sports.

Article 4.

The Contracting Parties shall support and promote establishment and development of direct contacts between educational institutions of all levels and youth and sports organisations based on the both, the bilateral co-operation contracts, and within the framework of the educational, youth and sports programmes and projects of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and other international organisations.

Article 5.

1. The Contracting Party shall support teaching of the language and literature of the country of the other Contracting Party. For this purpose the Contracting Party shall, based on the request of the receiving Contracting Party, support sending teachers of the Czech language and literature and the Latvian language and literature for work at public higher education institutions in the country of the other Contracting Party.

2. The activities of the language and literature teachers, who are accepted for work at public higher education institution of the other Contracting Party in accordance with Article 5 of this Agreement, shall be regulated by the laws and regulations in force in the receiving Contracting Party.

3. The remuneration for work of teachers, who are admitted for work at public higher education institutions of the other Contracting Party in accordance with Article 5 of this Agreement, shall be regulated in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the receiving Contracting Party.

4. The sending Contracting Party shall notify the receiving Contracting Party regarding sending of new teachers for work in public higher education institutions of other Contracting Party and regarding extension of staying therein for already working teachers not later than until 31 May of the calendar year.

Article 6.

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

a) scholarships for participation in the International Summer Schools organised by the higher education institutions of the Republic of Latvia;

b) scholarships for participation in the Summer School of Slavonic Studies in the Czech Republic.

Article 7.

1. The receiving Contracting Party shall cover for the participants of the International Summer Schools, who are admitted in accordance with Article 6 a) of this Agreement, the membership fee for lectures, workshops, accommodation, meals, study trips and transportation expenses between places of venue of the International Summer School in accordance with the programme of the International Summer School.

2. The receiving Contracting Party shall ensure for the participants of the courses, who are admitted in accordance with Article 6 b) of this Agreement, the registration fee and fee related to educating excursions, meals, accommodation and implementation of the programme of the Summer School of Slavonic Studies.

Article 8.

The Contracting Parties shall promote granting of scholarships for academic staff of higher education institutions for research work and delivering lectures.

Article 9.

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit the list of nominated persons which are arriving in accordance with Article 8 of this Agreement:

a) in the Republic of Latvia - to the State Education Development Agency not later than by 1 April of the calendar year;

b) in the Czech Republic - to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports by 31 March of the calendar year.

2. The institution of the receiving Contracting Party shall notify the institution of the sending Contracting Party regarding its consent to receive persons nominated in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article in its public higher education institutions not later than by 1 July of the calendar year.

3. Precondition for acceptance of persons for research work or delivering lectures shall be the person's knowledge of the official language of the Contracting Party to which the person wants to go to, or knowledge of the language regarding the knowledge of which it was agreed with the receiving Contracting Party.

Article 10.

The receiving Contracting Party shall provide the persons who are accepted in accordance with Article 8 of this Agreement with the following:

a) in the Republic of Latvia - scholarships in the amount, which in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia is annually published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia http://www.izm.gov.lv/en/latvian-scholarships-and-fellowships and on the website of the State Education Development Agency www.viaa.gov.lv/scholarships;

b) in the Czech Republic - meals and daily allowance in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Czech Republic.

Article 11.

The Contracting Party shall promote granting of scholarships for the bachelor's, master's and doctor's study programmes which are implemented in the State recognised higher education institutions of the other Contracting Party.

Article 12.

The receiving Contracting Party shall provide the persons who are accepted in accordance with Article 11 of this Agreement with the following:

a) in the Republic of Latvia - scholarships in the amount, which in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia is annually published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia http://www.izm.gov.lv/en/latvian-scholarships-and-fellowships and on the website of the State Education Development Agency www.viaa.gov.lv/scholarships;

b) in the Czech Republic - study for free at higher education institutions of the Czech Republic, accommodation and meals in accordance with the same conditions as those applying to the citizens of the Czech Republic, and scholarships in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Czech Republic.

Article 13.

1. The sending Contracting Party shall submit to the receiving Contracting Party the list of nominated candidates which are arriving in accordance with Article 6 and 11 of this Agreement:

a) in the Republic of Latvia - to the State Education Development Agency or the higher education institution, which is organising the International Summer School within the deadline which is published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science http://www.izm.gov.lv/en/latvian-scholarships-and-fellowships and the State Education Development Agency www.viaa.gov.lv/scholarships;

b) in the Czech Republic - to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic not later than by 31 March of the calendar year.

2. The receiving Contracting Party shall notify the sending Contracting Party of its consent to receive the candidates nominated by the sending Contracting Party in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. The sending Contracting Party shall inform the receiving Contracting Party regarding arrival of the accepted persons not later than two weeks before the beginning of the study.

Article 14.

The Contracting Parties shall support exchange of experts in the field of education, youth and sports in order to get familiar with a positive experience in the establishment and implementation of the policy in the field of education, youth and sports.

Article 15.

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

Article 16.

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 countries of Contracting Parties.

Article 17.

The performance of the obligations of the Contracting Parties referred to in this Agreement shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the countries of the Contracting Parties and available financial resources thereof.

The sending Contracting Party may cover travel expenses to the country of the receiving Contracting Party and back for a person which is received based on this Agreement.

Article 18.

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 come into effect after signing thereof. Such alterations shall be an integral part of the Agreement.

Article 19.

1. This Agreement shall come into effect on the date of its signing and shall remain in effect until 31 December 2020. 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 measures commenced in accordance with this Agreement shall be in effect until completion thereof regardless of the validity period of this Agreement.

Article 20.

On the day this Agreement comes into effect, the 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 of 2012-2015, signed on 31 January 2012, shall cease to be valid.

Done on (day) (year) in duplicate, each in Latvian, Czech and English, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of a different interpretation of this Agreement, the text in English shall prevail.

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| For the Ministry of  Education and Science  of the Republic of Latvia |  | For the Ministry of  Education, Youth and Sports  of the Czech Republic |